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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support a proposal to hire medical doctors from countries other than the U.S. and Canada?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS 6

As of July 27, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Man's Man

How do true movie stars respond in the face of a bomb threat?

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Scientists back not-for-profit fishing in Marianas Trench. **PAGE 2**

Senate overrides veto on CEC, Aetna funding bill. **PAGE 3**

Cop arrested in burglary case

Police car allegedly used as getaway vehicle

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Police authorities arrested Saturday one of their own, a police officer who was allegedly an accomplice in a burglary and theft case at a private residence on Capital Hill last July 19.

See COP on Page 4

'Demapan no chance at NMC board'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration through press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. has denied reappointing Juan S. Demapan to the Board of Regents, saying Gov. Benigno R. Fitial never submitted any nomination

See DEMAPAN on Page 4



DISCOVERY CAMP

High school students attending the Tinian Discovery Eco Camp participate in a Limestone Forest scavenger hunt conducted by Haldre Rogers and Leanne Obra. The camp was held between July 5 and July 11, 2009, at Tachonga Beach. See story on Page 6.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'5 govt employees violated Fund refund law'

Fund could recover \$33,000 from these employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

From Fiscal Year 2007 through May 2009, the NMI Retirement Fund received a total of 939 applications from government employees who want to get a refund on their contributions to the pension program. Of this number, the Fund approved and

paid out \$8 million in total refunds. A Fund-generated analysis also showed that there were 59 approved refund claimants who returned to government service and were entered into the defined contribution plan.

Of these 59, the Fund identified five persons who resumed work less than six months after resigning. The

law requires a six-month period before individuals who had obtained a refund on their contributions can resume government service.

This came to light during last week's special board meeting, with the agency's internal auditor, Esther S. Ada, reporting that three of these five are employees under the Execu-

See FUND on Page 4

Tim's sentencing postponed

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for CNMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered yesterday a last-minute postponement of the sentencing of former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-accused in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

The sentencing should have been at 9am today, See TIM'S on Page 4



Villagomez



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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

Local

Scientists back not-for-profit fishing in Marianas Trench

If approved, offshore fishing may be allowed around the Marianas Trench Monument after scientists finalized their recommendations for offshore fisheries in Hawaii and within the Pacific Marine National Monuments.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council had just concluded a three-day meeting last week at the King Kamehameha Beach Hotel in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

In a statement, the scientists

said they have finalized a suite of recommendations, which were subsequently reviewed by the council's Standing Committee.

"The full council will consider the recommendations by the SSC, standing committees and other advisory bodies as well as public comment prior to taking actions on the recommendations," the statement said.

The SSC said approved fisheries operating within the Pacific Remote Island Areas, Rose Atoll, and Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine Na-

tional Monuments should be allowed to sell their catches at not-for-profit prices.

The SSC also recommended mandatory federal permitting and catch reporting to monitor all fishing activities in the monuments. It further recommends that Guam and CNMI representation be included on the Advisory Council for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument.

The council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in the exclusive economic zone around Hawaii, American

Samoa, Guam, the CNMI and the U.S. Pacific remote islands areas. The management process is bottom-up with recommendations from fishermen and other interested persons moving through advisory groups to the SSC and then to the Council. Decisions made by the Council are transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

The SSC also alerted the Hawaii fishing industry about the possibility of closing the fishery.

The Hawaii long line fleet is

limited by international management measures to 3.763 metric tons per year of bigeye in the Western Pacific Ocean, and vessels in the fleet over 24 meters are limited to 500 metric tons of the bigeye in the Eastern Pacific.

"If the current catch trends continue, the fleet may reach the Western Pacific quota in mid-November," SSC said.

The SSC also recommend exploring the feasibility of implementing a limited access privilege program, a form of "catch shares," for the Hawaii

longline fishery.

It also recommended that the National Marine Fisheries Service conduct a study to estimate the precision of monitoring the fishery's catches through rapid tracking of log-books and expanding observer data to estimate the catch for the entire fleet.

SSC also said that it increased catches of seamount monchong might be sufficient reason for a precautionary control measure at Cross Seamount Such as a total allowable catch. (Wespac)

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Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Who's traveling our Northern Mariana Islands? Let's find out more about the visitors from our major markets.

Korea

Korea is the second primary market for the Northern Marianas. Last fiscal year, Koreans comprised 29 percent of all visitors, registering (116,710 of 396,497 total arrivals). So far this fiscal year, Korean visitors make up 25 percent of arrivals (68,106 out of 276,680). Korean arrivals are down -25 percent this year, influenced in part by the cool Korean economy and the depreciation of the Korean Won against the US Dollar.

Who is our average Korean visitor? In June 2009, most Korean visitors were females (55 percent compared to 45 percent males). The largest age group was 30-34 years (22 percent). An overwhelming 81 percent were on their first visit to the Northern Marianas, while 19 percent had visited before.

Who do our Korean visitors travel with? In June most of them traveled with their spouses (45 percent). The other top travel companions were children (25 percent) and business associates (20 percent).

Packaged tours lead as the main type of travel arrangement for half of Korean visitors (50 percent), while 31 percent were individually arranged.

The top four travel plans during their stay included pleasure (90 percent), followed by honeymoon (8 percent), golf and company trip.

So what influences the average Korean visitor to choose the Northern Marianas over other destinations? The most popular motivation was travel agent (56 percent), followed by internet (18 percent), friends/relatives (9 percent) and other motives.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Senate overrides veto on CEC, Aetna funding bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate voted yesterday to override Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto on a bill that allocates a total of \$295,000 to the Commonwealth Election Commission and government health insurance claim payments.

All six senators present—Senate President Pete Reyes, Paul Manglona, Felix Mendiola, Luis Crisostimo, Joseph Mendiola, and Paterno Hocog—voted for the override. Senators Jude Hofschneider, Henry San Nicolas, and Maria Frica Pangelinan were absent.

The House of Representatives has not scheduled a session yet but Rep. Ray Yumul, author of House Bill 16-262, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the lower chamber will possibly override the veto.

The bill sets aside \$172,369 for the Commonwealth Election Commission for the November 2009 general election and, if necessary, runoff election.

The bill also allocates \$122,630 for Aetna Global Benefits, an insurance carrier that administers the CNMI government's health insurance program. The payment is for the runoff obligations incurred by members of the CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Program.

Fitial had thumbed down the bill, saying the funding—which was supposed to come from the Marianas Public Land Trust—is simply not available.

During yesterday's session, Senate President Reyes said he believes the governor's veto message informing the Legislature that there is \$1.99 million in distributable income from the Marianas Public Land Trust in fact satisfies the requirement to identify the source of the funding.

Reading a letter from a person who had heart surgery using Aetna insurance, Manglona said the issue "is somehow being turned into a political football at the expense of the very people that need this help—the sick and elderly—who are being sent off-island for medical treatment."

Manglona said the bottom line is there is a need to pay the Aetna insurance deal.

"We need to address it. We need to stop bouncing it back and forth, whether by override or by having Finance address the source of funds so that they can pay. Actually we don't need any legislation; they should pay it," he said.

The Rota senator said lawmakers need to make a decision on the matter.

"Here is one way that we can have our government pay this \$122,000. Imagine, they could reprogram a million or two to pay for other unappropriated expenditure but here, there's just only \$122,000," Manglona said.

After Manglona's statement, Reyes called for a recess. When the session resumed, Mendiola said the senators consulted with the legal counsels of the Senate and House.

Mendiola said that, by the mere fact that the governor acknowledges that there is \$1.99 million as identified in his letter means there is a surplus of \$295,000 in additional revenue for the CNMI.

"And therefore by that letter, through the override of this bill, it will be treated as a supplemental appropriation identifying the additional \$295,000 for appropriation to the Board of Election and Aetna," Mendiola said.

"It is also my understanding that Aetna is taken care of or will be taken care of immediately after this as well as the

Board of Election's request for additional appropriation for this upcoming election," he said.

Crisostimo said his concern is that the House should act on the bill before the Senate.

"Too many times, we act on measures here for the House including our bills and overriding the governor's veto and they failed. I hope that our efforts here are not wasted," Crisostimo said.

Quoting House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Yumul, Manglona said the House has sufficient numbers to override the veto.

"Even if the House does not override this, we are doing the right thing under the circumstances," Manglona said.

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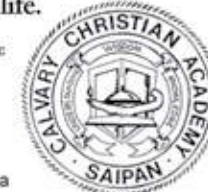
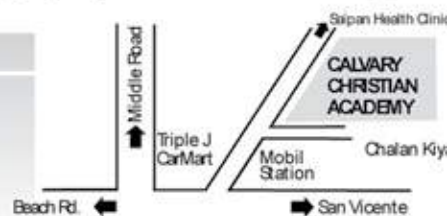


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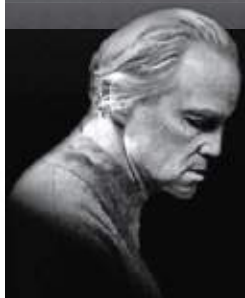
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The Zoo launched the international career of Arnel Pineda, their former lead singer, who is now the lead singer of Journey.

San Nicolas is new prisons chief

The Senate confirmed yesterday the nomination of former police official Dolores M. San Nicolas as the new commissioner for the Department of Corrections.

All six senators present in yesterday's session agreed to confirm San Nicolas' nomination.

Before the voting, some senators inquired about DOC issues such as the lack of a psychiatrist, the status of the consent decree, and manpower short-

age at the local prison.

San Nicolas expressed appreciation to the senators for giving her their confidence.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog recommended San Nicolas' confirmation.

"San Nicolas will be a valuable asset to the Department of Corrections. San Nicolas possesses the

required leadership skills, knowledge, training and experience to efficiently manage the department, and the committee is convinced of her abilities to serve in this most important capacity," the committee members stated in a letter to Senate President Pete Reyes.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated San Nicolas on June 24, 2009, to replace Lino Tenorio. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

Lightning triggers islandwide outage

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A two-hour power outage hit Saipan anew last Sunday night due to an electrical fault, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Gary Camacho, CUC's Power Division manager, explained in a statement yesterday that the electrical fault in the Feeder 2 circuit was triggered by lightning on the same night.

Saipan Tribune learned that a customer reported to CUC at 9:56pm about seeing sparks on the power pole directly in front of the ABC Store in Garapan.

Camacho said that after inspection, it was determined that the arrestor on the pole had been hit by lightning, causing the sparks.

"This lightning strike caused a heavy transient fault in the Feeder 2 circuit, activating the protective equipment

which automatically shut down the Aggreko power plant," he said, adding that Power Plants 1 and 4 were not able to sustain the immediate loss of power and their engines also shut down, resulting in the islandwide power outage.

He said both the field crews and the power plant staff immediately initiated the power restoration process. The line crews isolated the field problem and the power plant staff coordinated to synchronize the power plants to restore power to the grid. The restoration process was completed at 12:02am.

FUND

From Page 1

tive Branch.

Ada said the Fund can recoup a significant amount from these five who violated the law, totaling to \$33,000.

She recommended to the Fund board of trustees the establishment of a 90-day period before refunds are paid out. Currently, it is at 60 days.

A personnel action/certification from the Office of Public Auditor is also recommended as a requirement to better

monitor these employees.

Early this month, the board of trustees approved a resolution stopping the payment of contribution refunds starting Sept. 1, 2009.

The move was prompted after it was found that the Fund's total funded accrued actuarial liability has been below 40 percent within the last five years. Currently, the Fund is funded only 39 percent and has consistently failed to reach a level of 50 percent since fiscal year 2000.

The board said that refund payments may resume once the Fund addresses

its fiscal emergency.

Board chair Juan T. Guerrero earlier said the Fund releases over \$5 million every year as refunds to members.

"The Fund is at risk and with no new money coming in, we're jeopardizing the Fund's life if we will not stop payment of these refunds," Guerrero said.

It was earlier uncovered by the Fund that many of its members are withdrawing their contributions and then immediately transferring to other government positions—a patent violation of the law that mandates a 180-day separation from service.

DEMAPAN

From Page 1

letter after Demapan's term expired in June.

This came about after political differences between the two former party mates surfaced last week, resulting in Demapan's ouster from the Covenant Party's mayoralty bets.

In a document dated June 24 and signed by Fitial—a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*—Dema-

pan was reappointed to a four-year term to the NMC board, to expire on June 28, 2013. A separate letter to Senate President Pete Reyes on June 24 confirmed the governor's reappointment of Demapan to the position.

However, Reyes said yesterday: "The governor never submitted a nomination letter after Mr. Demapan's term expired, so there was never any nomination to withdraw after his term expired."

The appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Reyes added that the NMC board and the Senate never received such a letter because it was never sent.

"There was never any official communication to trigger a nomination. ... Mr. Demapan's term simply expired," Reyes said.

Senate President Pete Reyes confirmed yesterday that he received the reappointment letter from the Governor's Office, but admitted that the members did not act on it because the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Investigation did not

Senate OKs Managaha exemption from alcohol ban on Election Day

The Senate unanimously passed a bill yesterday that seeks to exempt Managaha Island from the prohibition of alcoholic beverage sales on Election Day.

All six senators present at the session approved House Bill 16-192. There was no discussion prior to voting.

The House passed the legislation in November 2008. The bill will now go to the governor for approval.

Rep. Rosemond Santos, author of the bill, stated that the prohibition of alcoholic beverage sales on Election Day is to prevent conflict between party camps from escalating.

This prohibition, Santos stated in the legislation, has a potential loss of economic growth within the tour-

ism industry.

Public Law 16-18 was enacted to exempt CNMI airports, hotels, hotel resorts, and golf course resorts from such prohibition.

The lawmaker said Managaha, a popular tourist destination, was inadvertently excluded from the exemption.

"The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to include Managaha Island under this exemption," Santos said.

In signing the previous exemption law, Gov. Benigno Fitial had urged the Legislature to revisit the law by exempting Managaha from the prohibition.

"Exempting Managaha Island from the prohibition will not hamper the election activities of our citizens," Fitial said. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

TIM'S

From Page 1

July 28, but due to unfinished matters, the federal court decided to move it to Aug. 5, 2009, instead.

Munson issued the postponement order around 3:30pm yesterday.

Villagomez and his co-accused—former Commerce secretary James A. Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos—were found guilty on April 24 by a grand jury of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

It will be recalled that Munson had denied on May 1 Villagomez's motions

for a new trial, a judgment of acquittal, and to disqualify Munson. Villagomez had claimed that he was deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial by an impartial jury.

On July 6, the federal court also denied a request for a new trial by the defendants as well as a motion to acquit them despite their convictions.

The defendants also asked the court on July 17 to sentence them to a term of probation with reasonable conditions.

This was followed by letters of appeal from about 30 of the defendants' friends and relatives, all urging for a term of probation.

The court also denied on July 21 a motion for release filed by the defendants while an appeal is pending in the Ninth Circuit Court.

make any recommendation on Demapan's reappointment.

"This means the re-appointment of Mr. Demapan just lapsed...and was never confirmed by the Senate," the senator said, adding that the only chance to fill the vacant seat at the NMC board is for another appointment or reappointment from the governor.

Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda confirmed Demapan's expiration.

Technically, he said, Demapan is out of the board because the reappointment was

never received by the Board of Regents.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, he expressed disappointment upon learning that he cannot serve on the board.

He told *Saipan Tribune* the move to "oust" him not only from the mayoralty candidacy but also with the NMC board was "a political decision."

However, Demapan said that, despite the Covenant Party's decision to oust him, he remains committed to running for mayor of Saipan as an independent candidate.

COP

From Page 1

The suspect, 31-year-old Florencio Richards, even used his patrol car as a getaway vehicle during the commission of the crime, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela.

Richards and his co-defendant, 30-year-old Vincent Daniel Q. Terlaje, appeared without a lawyer during a bail hearing yesterday. Assistant attorney general George Hasselblock represented the government.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered each suspect to post a \$15,000 cash bail.

Tudela said DPS doesn't want to cover up the case, adding that he feels bad that a police officer who should have been trusted by the public was the first to break the law.

Richards is now suspended without pay and, if found guilty, would be immediately terminated from service.

"Until now, he's not been proven guilty but...I cannot remember any police officer who has been involved in a case like this," Tudela said.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing on Aug. 3 at 9am and the arraignment on Aug. 10. He also appointed lawyer Richard Miller as counsel for the suspects.

According to an affidavit filed by DPS detective Christopher Leon Guerrero, Bruce M. McMillan had called DPS at about 9:08am on July 19 to report a burglary and theft incident in the Miller Estate Apartment room D4 on Capital Hill.

McMillan reported that the suspects stole his Toshiba satellite laptop worth \$1,200, a Citizen Skyhawk watch worth \$500, and business and personal checks from the Bank of Guam.

On July 21, McMillan updated the DPS Criminal Investigation Office of the list of stolen items, including an American Express Optima Platinum credit card and an American Express Gold Rewards credit card.

Police learned that somebody had attempted to withdraw money using one of the credit cards at the Bank of Hawaii. The same credit card was swiped at the Shell Puerto Rico at about 6:22am on July 19 and was also swiped at the First Hawaiian Bank and Kagman Mobil. Also on July 20, at 9:55pm, one of the cards was swiped at BOH Chalan Kanoa branch 20 times.

Police investigation also revealed that McMillan's personal checks were forged and cashed and that a check worth \$600 was cashed out on the day of the burglary.

This led police to two other suspects, who tagged Richards as one of the perpetrators and the discovery that he was also involved in other burglary cases.

The two agreed to cooperate with the police and they told investigators that Richards used an alias during another burglary case on July 18 at the San Roque Elementary School, where Terlaje alleged-

ly broke into a classroom. When he failed to find a laptop, they entered a poker room.

One of the suspects told police that they used the patrol car in that burglary. He said he had passed out and slept on the back seat of the patrol car. He woke up when Terlaje slammed the door, loading a laptop bag into the right rear passenger seat.

He told police that he noticed that they were parked behind a long white building by a grassy area. He told police that Terlaje showed him all the stolen items.

The suspects then parked at the Tanapag beach at about 4am-5am while Terlaje was writing four-digit numbers on a piece of paper, trying to figure out the pin numbers.

Terlaje then allegedly drove the patrol car and parked in front of the San Vicente Head Start at about 5:30am. Terlaje got down and cased an apartment across the Head Start, checking the doors but they were locked so they left and

headed for As Lito.

Terlaje then asked the cooperating suspect if he still wants to go with them but he asked them to drop him off at his home in Fina Sisu. Before reaching home, Terlaje allegedly gave him one booklet with the name "Bruce" written on it.

At about 2pm, the cooperating suspect picked up another cooperating defendant and they went to the Payless and Triple J Fresh Market where the former wrote checks and cashed them.

The first cooperating defendant also told police other events during the early morning of July 19.

He was later shown a photo line up and positively identified Terlaje and Richards.

Govendo issued a search warrant on July 24.

Acting public information officer Jason Tarkong said that Richards had previously reported that his fire arm had been lost but then a month later he found the gun at his house.

CEC needs to ink contract for ballot printing soon

As 44 file candidacies in two weeks

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission said yesterday it needs to sign a contract with

the ballot printing company before end of August to ensure that the general election will be held as scheduled in November this year.

Robert Guerrero, CEC execu-

'Sending long-term criminals off-island would be cheaper'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sending the Commonwealth's long-term prisoners to off-island prisons would be cheaper for the CNMI, rather than keeping them here at the local prison, according to newly confirmed Department of Corrections commissioner Dolores San Nicolas.

"We do not have a sufficient program at this time to accommodate all these criminals," San Nicolas told the Senate during her confirmation hearing yesterday.

She said at present there are 144 inmates at DOC, including 50 sex offenders, murderers, and other violent offenders.

San Nicolas said DOC at present has no available program to rehabilitate long-term criminals, so sending them off-island would be cheaper.

She said off-island prison facilities have rehabilitation program and complete personnel.

"The rehabilitation is 100 percent," she said.

DOC spend \$124 daily per prisoner.

San Nicolas recalled that at one time Honolulu sent more than 1,000 prisoners to Texas while they were renovating the prison and getting their budget together.

"For the CNMI, we are sending our prisoners already. We have several prisoners distributed to the states," she said.

In an interview, San Nicolas said if the budget continues to fall, the only viable option for DOC is to send these long-term criminals off-island.

Right now, the commissioner said it's still manageable.

"We are surviving. We are trying now to hire all the professional staff so we can accommodate the services," she said.

San Nicolas said their budget is only \$6 million and that DOC needs \$7 million more to run the department efficiently.

tive director, is optimistic, however, that funding will be provided soon by the Legislature and the Fitial administration.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed last week the bill that sets aside \$172,000 for the general election, citing technical problems with the proposed measure.

Despite the veto, Guerrero said the Fitial administration assured the commission that there would be money for the election.

"The governor vetoed it for technical [violations] of the Constitution...but the governor assured us that there will be funding available for CEC," he said.

He said he is not sure where

the administration will source the money but he is counting on their assurances.

Guerrero said the agency needed the money since last week for the mailing out of absentee ballot forms.

"Initially we need about \$85,000 [for the printing contract] and we're hoping to receive the funding as soon as possible because the printing of ballots must be done by the first week of September," Guerrero said.

The tally of registered voters has jumped to about 14,600 to date and the commission expects to exceed the 15,000 target by the time the Nov. 7 election rolls in.

As of yesterday, the commission has received 130 absentee

ballot applications.

"We don't know yet the number of absentee voters this year because that is based on applications. So far, we have 130 applicants and we're expecting to get more," he said, adding that applicants have about 25 days to submit their forms before election day.

Guerrero said the agency will be printing 10 percent more ballots on top of the total count of registered voters. "We're looking at about 18,000 ballots to be printed this year," he said.

The last day to register to vote is on Sept. 18.

'44 candidates file in 2 weeks'

In the second week of the filing schedule, a total of 44 candi-

dates for various positions have already filed papers signifying their intention to run in the November polls.

Of these contenders, three teams have registered for the gubernatorial and lieutenant governor race, including incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos of the Covenant Party and the independent tandems of Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho, and Ramon S. Guerrero and David Borja.

Eight candidates so far will be vying for senatorial seats on three islands and 19 individuals are seeking House seats.

For the municipality mayors, six individuals have so far filed their candidacies; seven are contenders for municipal council seats; one is running for a Board of Education seat.

The commission has set the filing of candidacies until Aug. 10.

Deadline nears for FHB/GB scholarship

The deadline to submit completed applications for the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business is this Friday, July 31, 2009.

The program provides student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Marianas: The University of Guam, Guam Community College, and the Northern Marianas College.

Application forms are available from the financial aid offices of all three institutions, at the First Hawaiian Bank branches, and the Glimpses of Guam office. Ap-

plications must be submitted by July 31. Those in the CNMI may submit their applications to the NMC Financial Aid Office in As Terlaje, Saipan.

The scholarships are intended to "promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers," and are open to both full-time and part-time students. The scholarships will be awarded based on merit, eligibility, a written essay, and financial need. Applicants should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

"We are delighted to be able to open the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship Program to even more students in the Marianas, thanks to the generous

support from the business community," said Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager for Guam and the CNMI for First Hawaiian Bank.

Maureen N. Maratita, publisher of Glimpses Publications, said, "This scholarship program is designed to be unique in many ways, and also has the support of community organizations such as the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, the Guam Women's Club, the Korean Women's Association on Guam, and Soroptimist International of the Marianas."

Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2009 Businesswoman of the Year Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 25. The sold-out event was attended by hundreds of supporters of the program. The event raises funds for these scholarships and recognizes women who make a difference in business. The 2009 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient is Lorraine S. Okada, executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP and president and owner of Managing Consulting Services.

For more information and to download a copy of the application form and the policies, please visit www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



WANT TO WORK FOR THE FASTEST GROWING COMPANY IN THE MARIANAS?

IT&E is looking for candidates to fill entry level and first level management positions with our potential Call Center here in the CNMI

Full Time and Part Time positions available

Candidates may fill out applications, submit all necessary documents, and an onsite interview will be conducted by IT&E personnel.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be US Citizen or legally authorized to work in the CNMI
- Must have a High School Diploma or GED, College degree may be required for some management positions
- Must speak and understand English
- Must be able to type 23 wpm minimum
- Must have flexible schedule to work shifts that include holidays and weekends in support of a 24-hour operation

Call Center Job Fair!

Saturday, August 1, 2009 • 9am to 12pm

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Azucena I & II



Life in Motion

www.ite.net

Tinian Discovery Camp on its 2nd year

This year marked the second successful summer event for high school students attending the Tinian Discovery Eco Camp, held between July 5 and July 11, 2009, at Tachonga Beach.

For the first time, almost half of the 30-some campers traveled via ferry to Tinian from

Saipan, doubling the number of last year's participants.

Despite almost being washed out by the first two evenings' heavy downpour, along with a bad bout of the flu in the final two days, camp members hung together and toughed it out. As its program title suggests,

campers applied their time during the week to discover various aspects of their natural and cultural environments, both on land and in the sea.

Like last year, most of the campers took and passed a well-designed Professional Association of Dive Instructors' course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school students attending the Tinian Discovery Eco Camp pose for a group picture at the Peace Memorial on Tinian.

(Discovery SCUBA) in the Tinian Dynasty pool, and later in the waters at the Tachonga/Taga Reef Marine Sanctuary.

Campers shared a common desire to learn about their islands' ecology while expressing a desire to stay in touch. Their common goal is to act as one in recognizing the beauty and importance of all of the Mariana Islands.

Dennis Chan took away a passion for exploring more of the islands, as expressed in his winning essay which garnered him a full scholarship to explore the Northern Islands.

Kristine Valencia wrote, "The Discovery Camp on Tinian is one I'll never forget. Sure, it was educational. But I'd say it was one of those memorable moments that I'll never forget for the rest of my life. And I am

glad to have spent those moments with the other campers. It was fun, no doubt about that."

Tents, air mattresses, and water jugs were provided by the NMC Sciences & Natural Resources Management Program. With financial support from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, each camper's underwater and on-land learning experiences were videotaped to be made into a DVD.

Camp instructional highlights included:

- "Discovery SCUBA," taught by Mike Tripp, Harry Blalock, and Mike Ernest.

- "Discovery by and History of the Various Mariana Islands' Colonizing Nations," taught by Don Farrell.

- "History of the Science of Ecology," taught by Andre Kozij.

- "Introduction to Native Forest Tree Identification and an Experiment of Seed Predation by Hermit Crabs," taught by Halder Rogers and Leanne Obra.

- "Dangerous Marine Life"; and "Identification and Adaptive Characteristics of Certain Reef Fishes and

- Invertebrates," taught by John Furey.

- "Learning to Weave with Coconut Leaves," taught by Jose San Nicholas.

- "International Standards Beach Volleyball," taught by Laurie Peterka.

- "Exploring Tinian's Caves and Forests," taught by Takeji Hagashima.

- "Free Diving Breath-holding and Descent Methods," taught by Morito Asai.

- "Air-layering Useful Fruit Trees," taught by Arnold Route.

- "Walk It, Don't Drive It: A Beach-Recovery Story"; and "Climate Change: A Micronesian Challenge," taught by Kathy Yuknavage.

- "Rappelling Down a Cliff Face," taught by the Tinian Fire Department.

- "Some Principles of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture," taught by Lawrence Duponcheel.

- "Insect Pest Management Practices and Concerns," taught by Dr. Marisol Quintanilla.

- "Benefits and Concerns Regarding Marine Protected Areas," taught by Angelo Vilagomez.

- "Monitoring Methods to Assess Coral Reef Health," taught by Dr. John Starmer, David Benevente, and Rodney Camacho.

The camp was chiefly organized by its director, Kimberly Vaillancourt, with support provided by other officers and members of the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education & Environmental Management, and from the leaders, agencies, and community members of both Tinian and Saipan. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: PSS - 2009 - 052 Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**

Position Title: LEGAL COUNSEL (Amendment / Re-Announcement I)

Pay Level/Step: UNGRADED Per Annum Salary: **\$40,000.00-\$60,000.00**

Opening Date: JULY 20, 2009 Closing Date: **AUGUST 20, 2009**

Location: PSS - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)

Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from an U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the CNMI bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must also have at least five (5) years legal work experience, preferably for government entities handling government contracts and/or education issues.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Floor Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLR. RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will be meeting on Thursday and Friday, July 30-31, 2009, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Coffee Care in Capitol Hill, Saipan:

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters-
 - A. Roll Call
- II. Call To Order
- III. Rules and Regulations Amendments.
- IV. Adjournment

/s/ Bertha P. Camacho, NP
Chairperson



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB09-DPH/WIC-129 (A-D)

BID SUBMISSION: AUGUST 13, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
BID OPENING: AUGUST 13, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) LAPTOP COMPUTERS, ONE (1) LCD TV 37", TWO (2) WACOM DIGITAL EDITING TABLETS, AND MISC. NETWORK AND MIS NEED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH-W.I.C. PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Learn how to protect one's business from the swine flu

With two confirmed cases of swine flu (H1N1 virus) in the CNMI and the rate rapidly growing in Guam, now is the time for CNMI businesses to learn how to protect their employees and ensure the continuity of their business if an outbreak occurs.

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will be holding its monthly general membership meeting this Thursday, July 30, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret from 11:30am to 1:30pm and their guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Brostrom, Medical Director for the Department of Public Health.

Dr. Brostrom will update the audience on the current status of the H1N1 virus in the CNMI,



Brostrom

CONTACT INFO

SHRM vice president Eric Plinske
Tel: 323-4260/61
E-mail: elplinske@staywellguam.com

across the nation, and throughout the world, and provide his assessment of whether or not the H1N1 virus is a global pandemic or a paper tiger that is being over-hyped.

Dr. Brostrom will also present on critical H1N1 virus topics such as:

- What is the H1N1 virus and how is it different from the regular flu;

- Who is at most risk;

- Steps that companies and employees should consider in anticipation of increasing rates of the H1N1 virus in the CNMI;

- Prevention methods and symptoms of the virus;

- Procedures in place to treat patients with the H1N1 virus;

- How to function with increasing absenteeism in the workplace;

- Sick leave policies that should be considered;

- Vaccine availability.

The presentation will be open to both SHRM members and nonmembers. The rate for SHRM members will be \$20 and nonmembers \$30, and the presentation will include lunch and handouts.

Don't miss your chance to find out the latest information about the H1N1 virus in the CNMI and what you can do to prevent your company from being affected.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact SHRM vice president Eric Plinske at StayWell Insurance at 323-4260/61 or elplinske@staywellguam.com. (SHRM)

New dress code for police officers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will be implementing a new dress code for police officers while on duty starting Aug. 16.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela said all patrol and traffic police officers would be wearing the class B uniform that has the badge and nameplate in it.

Tudela said that police officers should not wear the polo shirt uniform when reporting for duty.

However, Tudela said that Boating Safety officers and Fire Patrol officers would be exempted from this new dress code policy and can still wear their polo shirt uniform.

Tudela said this is one of DPS' efforts to professionalize the police force.

The new dress code will cover officers on Saipan, Rota



DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, left, points to public information officer Jason Tarkong, seated, who is wearing the polo shirt uniform that will not be allowed starting Aug. 16. Sgt. August Kaneshi, center, is shown wearing the class B uniform.

and Tinian.

Anyone who will not comply with the new policy will be dealt with accordingly.

"We will reprimand anyone who is not wearing the class B uniform by Aug. 17," Tudela said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again on July 31, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. The Library's Bookmobile will also be there.

Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm.

There will vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman.

Interested vendors can call

the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for applications. (PR)

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. (PR)

DEQ sets Tanapag beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Tanapag Social Hall in Tanapag on

Aug. 1, 2009.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the group at 8am at the social hall. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north and south of Tanapag Beach until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Presents... **TRENCH TECH**
TRENCH WARZ
TO COLLISION
*FRIDAY - JULY 31, 2009 *SAIPAN WORLD RESORT
*DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

Guam U.S. Saipan

KICKBOXING K-1 MATCH:
SONNY CHARGUALAF 145LBS VS. MAITAI "THE CHARGER" CHARLEY 145LBS

MMA LIGHT WEIGHT MATCH UPS:
JUN "SHOCKERABA" SAN NICOLAS 130LBS VS. MARTIN AYUYU 130LBS
TONY "RUSH" REYES 140LBS VS. RYAN GARDEE 140LBS
JON "THE HEAT" DELOS REYES 140LBS VS. CHRIS "NO LUV" LAAYUG 140LBS
WARREN "KILLA" QUINATA 155LBS VS. FASI "QUICKDRAW" JESSE 155LBS
"INFAMOUS" RAY APIAG 155LBS VS. NATE "THE TERRIBLE" FLORES 155LBS

MIDDLEWEIGHT MATCH UPS:
GIL "THE GUAMANIAN" MENO 185LBS VS. SHANE "INSANE" CAMACHO 185LBS
TOBY "BIG TOBZ" MESA 200LBS VS. SLADE "THE RAGE" ADELBAI 190LBS

THE BIG BRAWL:
MIKE "THE OGRE" DAVIS 315LBS VS. "KILL" BILL SAURES 220LBS

HEAVY WEIGHT SEMI MAIN EVENT:
ERIC "TERROR" TEDTAOTAO 240LBS VS. MYRON "THE NATURAL" SAN NICOLAS 230LBS.

HEAVYWEIGHT MAIN EVENT:
MANNY "THE ENFORCER" CHONG 215LBS VS. KELVIN "THE BIG HIT" FITIAL 240LBS

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
pepsi monster docomo 360 AQUARIUS Budget Car Rental OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY

Rosemond Blanco Santos Re-Election Kick-Off FUNDRAISER



- Oceans on Paseo de Marianas

- 5-9 p.m. Saturday, August 1, 2009

- Tickets: \$20

DOOR AND RAFFLE PRIZES!
VOTE

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Representative Rosemond B. Santos, Precinct 5

For more information please email: island670@gmail.com

MVA lauds honest acts at tourist sites

The Marianas Visitors Authority applauds the recent honest acts of local residents and employees at major visitor sites in the Northern Marianas.

Based on recent reports from security services in the area, island residents and employees have helped returned a number of cell phones, digital cameras, and other lost valuables to their rightful owners.

"The fact that a visitor can lose an item worth hundreds of dollars...and then have it returned by a good Samaritan...is one small way visitors experience the *"hafa adai-tirow"* spirit that makes our islands a great place to visit," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

MVA provides security services at Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, Laulau Beach and Obyan Beach. Recent recoveries include a digital camera lost by a Japanese diver at Laulau Beach and later recovered and returned to the owner by Akihiro Nakanishi of S-2 Dive shop. Another recent recovery was a black bag left at Obyan Beach and returned by security officers to the owner at Ladera International School.

"We cannot begin to thank the many residents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who deserve to be recognized for the important role they play as individuals and families to make visitors feel welcomed," said Tenorio. "As a community, this makes a huge impression about why our islands are a wonderful place."

Individuals who find or lose valuables at any of the five sites listed are encouraged to inquire with the security guard on duty or Marianas Visitors Authority. (MVA)



MVA

The honest acts of Akihiro Nakanishi of S2 Dive Club and other individuals who have helped visitors and residents recover lost belongings were commended by the Marianas Visitors Authority Board at their June 2009 meeting. Earlier this year, Nakanishi found a digital camera at Laulau Beach and helped return it to its rightful owner.



MVA

Security officer Rudy Miraflor on duty at Obyan Beach in Saipan on July 19, 2009. Miraflor recently recovered a black bag with personal belongings at the beach and helped return it to its rightful owner, one of a number of recoveries by security company G4S at tourist sites around island.



PACIFIC BRIEFS

5.7 earthquake shakes Vanuatu

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A magnitude 5.7 earthquake has shaken Vanuatu's main island of Efate in the South Pacific, but emergency services say there are no immediate reports of injury or damage. The U.S. Geological Survey says the quake hit Monday morning 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of the capital, Port Vila, at a depth of 42 miles (68 kilometers). No tsunami warning was issued following the quake, which locals say shook buildings and tossed items off shelves. The same area was hit by three quakes in early June, but there was no injury or damage. Vanuatu—a chain of 83 islands—lies about 2,200 kilometers (1,400 miles) northeast of Sydney. It is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire"—an arc of earthquake and volcanic zones.

Vanuatu to upgrade passports

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Vanuatu passport holders have been given until April 2010 to upgrade their

current passports to a machine readable passport that will meet international standards and give access to international travel. This was announced after the Director General for Internal Affairs, George Bogiri on Thursday signed on behalf of the Government and the Minister a memorandum of agreement with New Zealand High Commissioner Jeff Langley to establish the project to upgrade Vanuatu's passport using New Zealand Government funding and expertise. Bogiri said: "Our hand-written passport no longer complies with international standards. Upgrading it to be machine readable is an urgent priority."

French Polynesia to take part in Pacific forum

PAPEETE, Tahiti (Tahitipresse/PIR)—French Polynesia Assembly Speaker Philip Schyle will attend the next France-Oceania summit to be held July 31 in Noumea, New Caledonia. Schyle also plans to take part in the Pacific Islands Forum in Cairns, Australia, Aug 4-7. Schyle an-

nounced that he will be out of French Polynesia for about two weeks. He will attend the third France-Oceania summit chaired by French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner. Schyle also plans to meet Assembly Speakers from the two other French territories in the Pacific, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna.

Flu fears close Samoa schools

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—All government schools in Samoa have been forced to close temporarily for one week, starting tomorrow following, urgent advice from the Minister of Health, Gatoloaifana Amataga Gidlow, to the Minister of Education. Many students and teachers are reported to be sick with flu-like symptoms. The Ministry of Health CEO, Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe, says the advice from the minister makes use of emergency powers and it's hoped to be able to contain the fast spread of the flu. Latest figures shows only 37 confirmed cases of swine flu in Samoa, but

the chief executive officer of health is worried many people in the outback of the country are affected but not reporting to district health centers for treatment.

Population in Wallis and Futuna drops

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Census figures from Wallis and Futuna show that between 2003 and 2008 the population has declined by 10 percent to just over 13,000. The French territory of Wallis and Futuna is a Polynesian island group between Fiji and Samoa. The figures show that fertility has declined to two children per woman while the population has aged, with 11 percent of residents now over 60. The declines is attributed to continued emigration to mainly New Caledonia, whose Wallisian population has soared to 25,000. Education achievements are relatively low and economic development limited, which on Futuna has allowed only 28 percent of the population to be in paid employment compared to the 63 percent across all of France and its territories.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 28, 1999

Gov't owes CUC \$6.8M

In yet another sign of deepening financial woes of the CNMI, the government has yet to pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation some \$6.8 million in utility bills accumulated over the last six months. The public utility firm has been trying to collect the overdue charges by coming up with a payment schedule favorable to the Tenorio administration. The debt is the largest so far incurred by the government to CUC, according to officials. To help the cash-strapped government, the CUC Board of Directors yesterday voted to lower its power rate from the present 20 cents per kilowatt-hour to 16 cents, which is the same rate offered to commercial users.

PSS to restrict school bus use

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said yesterday the Public School System considers minimizing its school bus operations by limiting the transportation service only to students who live long distance away from their schools. Inos said limiting the school bus use may be a more acceptable alternative to a proposal seeking to charge students for the ride. Board members Anthony Pellegrino and Marja Lee Taitano earlier proposed that PSS charge students 25 cents each per bus ride as a way of raising additional revenues for the education agency. CNMI PTA Council legislative affairs officer Roman Benavente objected on Monday to the proposal and suggested that PSS instead stop extending free transportation service to private schools.

July 28, 2000

New FTZ bill faces risk of veto again

Legislation creating free trade zones in the Northern Marianas is again at risk of getting vetoed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as lawmakers have insisted on some provisions that he has found problematic when the proposal was first enacted last year. The House of Representatives yesterday accepted Senate amendment to HB 12-11 allowing mayors of Rota and Tinian control over public lands that can be designated as special economic sites, citing the need to expedite passage of the much-delayed measure. But this move was precisely the main concern raised by the administration when the original bill sponsored by Rep. Diego T. Benavente was disapproved as Mr. Tenorio believed it violates constitutional provisions granting such authority solely to Board of Public Lands.

DOF: CNMI's fiscal house now in order

More than two years since the Tenorio Administration inherited an enormous budget deficit amidst dropping government revenues, the Commonwealth's finance managers revealed the CNMI's fiscal house has been fixed although earnings continue to be lower compared with the 1997 level. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said the CNMI is starting to reap the fruits of measures installed since Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio assumed the gubernatorial seat in 1998, through stabilizing revenue collection and prompt release of tax refunds and rebates this year. She noted the administration's ability to restructure the government's overall spending, from close to \$270 million in Fiscal Year 1997 to only about \$207 million in 1999.

July 28, 2003

'Apologize, withdraw complaint'

The Attorney General's Office must withdraw its complaint against the Marianas Public Lands Authority and issue a public apology by tomorrow over its recent decision to intervene for the Marianas Public Lands Trust in its pending lawsuit against the lands authority. This was the gist of a July 21, 2003, letter that MPLA's independent legal counsel Matthew Gregory wrote to the AGO on behalf of his client. "My client has asked me to request that you withdraw your complaint and apologize to MPLA in the press. We expect your office to withdraw its complaint and publish an apology by Tuesday, July 22, 2003, at 5pm," said Gregory in the letter that was addressed to assistant AG James Livingstone and Benjamin Sachs, who earlier joined MPLT as a co-plaintiff in its case against MPLA.

OTEC proponent not so sure now of Saipan

The Maryland-based proponent for a \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant on Saipan is now rethinking about its proposal following a recent visit to the island, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC board chair Herman P. Sablan disclosed in an interview that, in a recent on-site inspection, Sea Solar Power International president Robert J. Nicholson III found the island location to be different from what it had expected.

Island Snapshots



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our "Champ" T.G. JR. Dela Cruz, who celebrated his 7th birthday on July 22, 2009. May you have many more birthdays to come! We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



FILING OF CANDIDACY

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is seen mingling with party supporters as they wait for the other candidates to arrive at the Commonwealth Election Commission for the filing of their candidacy papers on July 22, 2009.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



Happy birthday to Sandra Simina aka Sanipo! Enjoy your special day and stay strong. We love you so much and hope for many more to come! Greetings come from your family and friends, especially Jojo, Nessa, and emko's kap'z.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings to Wanette Rodriguez! Your beauty is apparent to everyone who sees you, but your true beauty is deeper and shines from your heart. Wishing you all the great things in life, hope this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest. Greetings come from your friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Welcome to the Christian world and happy birthday to baby Aislinn Laxamana! With her is her mommy Maureen as they celebrate at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



WELCOME HOME!

Welcome home Airman Stephanie Ann M. Arnold. We are all very happy to see you. Greetings come from Islander Rent a Car staff and your family. We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday to Elise Divine Furey Maratita who is celebrating her BERRY special day with family and loved ones. May you have many more wonderful birthdays to come! God bless and we love you! Greetings coming out from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROAD TRIP

Former Saipan residents Elmer and Bing Chavez, together with their kids—Krystele and Joshua—took a road trip to California recently. Photo above shows them stopping over "The 3 Crabs" with friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Chavezes share a meal with former *Saipan Tribune* editor Aldwin Fajardo, and reporter Linda Blue Romero-Baitan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Suicide in the armed forces

Last year, 143 soldiers, 41 sailors, 41 Marines and 31 airmen took their own lives. For the first time, suicides in the Army have outpaced the rate for the same demographic group in the nation at large, with the highest number since the Pentagon began keeping track in 1980.

The Defense Department has taken notice. Both independently and in concert, the branches of the armed forces have affirmed their commitment to suicide prevention and begun trying to identify contributing factors and offer solutions. This has produced an almost bewildering array of options: A PowerPoint presentation given to Army commanders listed nearly 20 independent sources of help. Almost every branch of the armed services has launched one or more independent initiatives to promote overall mental wellness and to combat suicide — not to mention broader-ranging programs such as the Defense Centers of Excellence's "Real Warriors" campaign to lessen the stigma against seeking mental health assistance. The Army Suicide Prevention Task Force observed that commanders are "overwhelmed by the number of programs the Army already has."

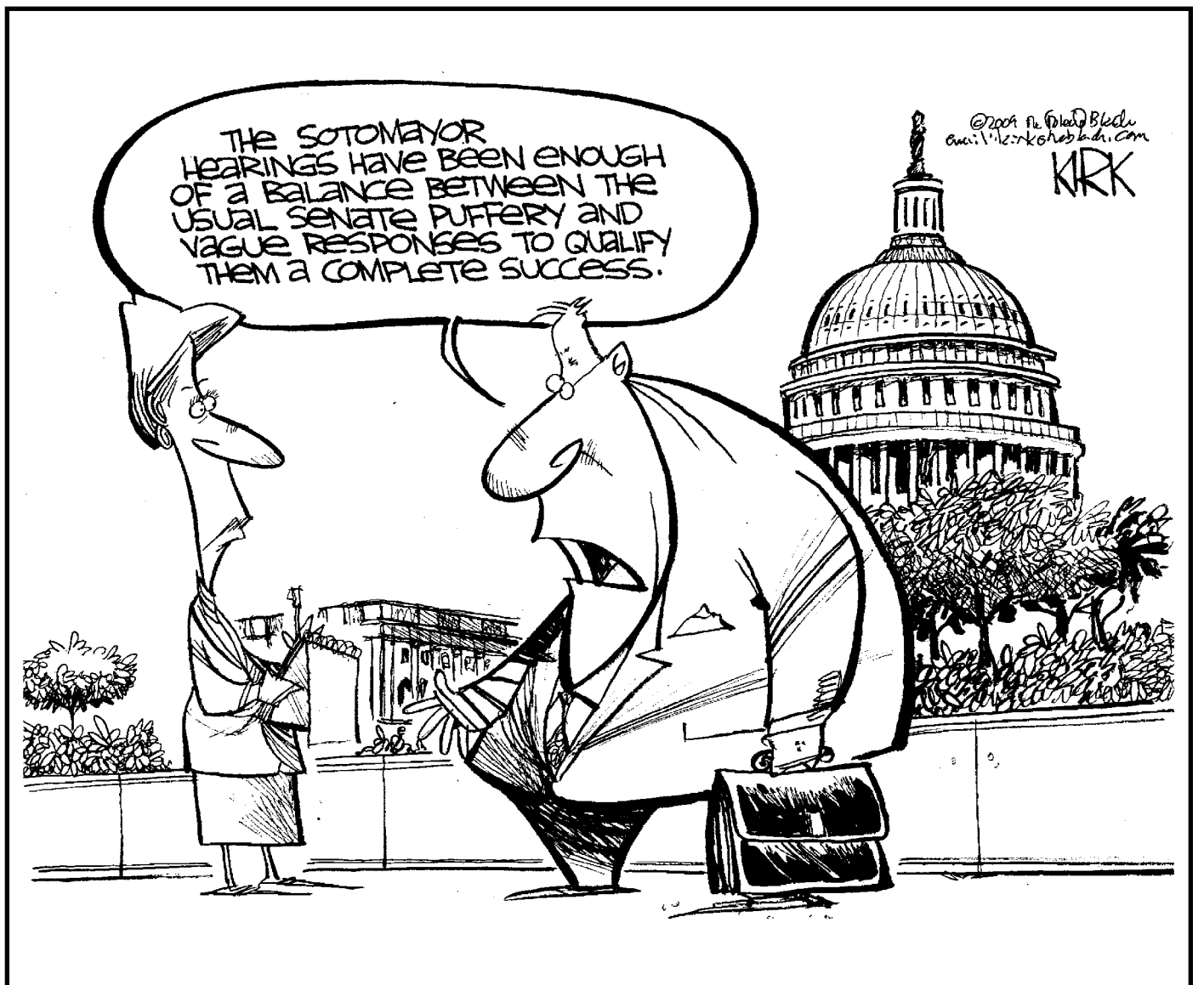
The volume and variety of programs directed against suicide show a welcome commitment. But even if more programs are the solution, there needs to be a way of measuring their effectiveness.

That's why a heartening aspect of the Pentagon's anti-suicide efforts is a promise to gather and share data. This could result in strategies with applications in the struggle against suicide nationwide. It's critical that there be follow-up to identify programs that are successful and to fix or end those that are not.

Demographic factors, along with the stresses of combat, may contribute to the military's high rate of suicide. Even within the general population, young and middle-aged men are a higher-risk group. But where once military suicide rates were far below the comparable rate in the general population, increases in recent years have pushed them above what would be expected. In the Army alone, the number of suicides has doubled since 2004.

What factors contributed to such an increase remain to be seen. What is clear is that the war against suicide will be a long campaign, not a single battle. The Pentagon must make this a continuing priority, even if suicides begin to decrease. If the armed forces maintain their commitment and take steps to monitor the effectiveness of programs, there is potential for success.

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Education reform's moon shot

To every governor who aspires to be his state's "education governor," this is your moment. Friday, President Obama announced the draft guidelines for applying for the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top fund—by far the largest pot of discretionary funding for K-12 education reform in the history of the United States.

Since its inception in 1980, the U.S. Department of Education has traditionally been a compliance-driven agency with only modest discretionary funds available for reform and innovation. By contrast, the Race to the Top fund marks a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the federal government to create incentives for far-reaching improvement in our nation's schools. Indeed, the \$4.35 billion available in Race to the Top easily outstrips the combined sum of discretionary funds for reform that all of my predecessors as education secretary had.

For states, school districts, nonprofits, unions and businesses, Race to the Top is the equivalent of education reform's moon shot—and the Obama administration is determined not to miss this opportunity. We will scrutinize state applications for a coordinated commitment to reform—and award grants on a competitive basis in two rounds, allowing first-round losers to make necessary changes and reapply.

What are we looking for? The president starts from the understanding that maintaining the status quo in our schools is unacceptable. America urgently needs to elevate the quality of K-12 schooling and boost college graduation rates, not simply to propel the economic recovery but also because students need stronger skills to compete in a global economy. As he has put it, "education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success—it's a prerequisite for success." Yet tragically, too many schools fail to prepare their students for college or the workforce.

Under Race to the Top guidelines, states seeking funds will be pressed to implement four core interconnected reforms.

- To reverse the pervasive dumbing-down of academic standards and assessments by states, Race to the Top winners need to work toward adopting common, internationally benchmarked K-12 standards that prepare students for success in college and careers.

- To close the data gap—which now handcuffs districts from tracking growth in student learning and improving classroom instruction—states will need to monitor advances in student achievement and identify effective instructional practices.

- To boost the quality of teachers and principals, especially in high-poverty schools and hard-to-staff subjects, states and districts should be able to identify effective teachers and principals—and have strategies for rewarding and retaining more

By ARNE DUNCAN

Special to The Washington Post

Arne Duncan is secretary of education.



top-notch teachers and improving or replacing ones who aren't up to the job.

- Finally, to turn around the lowest-performing schools, states and districts must be ready to institute far-reaching reforms, from replacing staff and leadership to changing the school culture.

The Race to the Top program marks a new federal partnership in education reform with states, districts and unions to accelerate change and boost achievement. Yet the program is also a competition through which states can increase or decrease their odds of winning federal support. For example, states that limit alternative routes to certification for teachers and principals, or cap the number of charter schools, will be at a competitive disadvantage. And states that explicitly prohibit linking data on achievement or student growth to principal and teacher evaluations will be ineligible for reform dollars until they change their laws.

Neither I nor the president is naive about reform. I served as superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools for seven years—and saw firsthand that the system often served the interests of adults better than it did its students. Still, I reject much of the pessimism and age-old apathy about school reform. I have visited 23 states in the past six months and have met countless students, teachers, parents and administrators who hunger for change. I have seen high-performing schools and districts that are closing achievement gaps, raising graduation rates and shipping off to college kids who never thought it possible.

Since President Obama took office, numerous states have adopted reforms that would have been almost unthinkable a year ago. This spring, 46 states signed on to a state-led process to develop a common core of K-12 standards in language arts and math. At the same time, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Indiana, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Colorado and Illinois have lifted restrictions on charter school growth.

Despite the obstacles, I remain optimistic about America's capacity for transformational change. The edifice of education reform may take years to build. But the Race to the Top starts now.

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Obama: How we'll close the fiscal gaps

By FRED HIATT

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WASHINGTON—In a telephone interview with editorial page editor Fred Hiatt Wednesday afternoon, President Obama said he will not accept a health-care reform bill, even one that is deficit-neutral, if it does not also begin to reduce the cost of care. Below are excerpts of the interview:

President Obama: Let's talk health care.

Fred Hiatt: Okay. What in your mind are the most important things Congress could do to bend the (cost) curve in health care?

Obama: We know that if the Mayo Clinic or Geisinger (Health System) are doing things smarter for less money, that there should be ways to incentivize other health systems, applying these models. So that's one set of major reforms. And what we think is the most powerful lever to achieve those reforms is this MedPAC idea that we provided a very detailed proposal to Congress on.

At this point, I am confident that both the House and the Senate bills will contain what we've been calling "MedPAC on steroids," the idea that you continually present new ideas to change incentives, change the delivery system, understanding that because this is such a complex system we're not always going to get it exactly right the first time, and that there have to be a series of modifications over the course of a series of years, and we have to take that out of politics and make sure that an independent board of medical experts and health economists are providing packages that are continually improving the system.

Now, the second idea, which is the one that got more attention, even though Elmendorf has emphasized the benefits of a MedPAC board, as well, was the elimination of the tax exclusion (on employer-provided health insurance). I've been very clear that I think to add additional costs to families right now when they're already seeing their premiums doubled is not the kind of health reform that I'd like to see, but I believe that there may be ways of getting at the same principle.

For example, you could conceivably set up an index of some sort that makes sure that ... the exclusion only accommodates a certain amount of health-care inflation—as opposed to 8 percent or 9 percent, or what have you—without burdening current plans, but over time assuming ... that health-care inflation is going to continue to be a problem.

Hiatt: A kind of cap, but one that doesn't hurt anybody...

Obama: Currently.

Hiatt:—at the current level?

Obama: Exactly. You're also seeing, I think, some interesting discussions in the Senate Finance Committee about a variation that goes after the insurance companies, as opposed to directly taxing the benefits. ...

And you could have a situation in which you cap the exclusion or eliminated the exclusion and, yes, that would drive health-care

inflation down, but it also could drive quality of health care down because you're not doing anything to change a perverse system in which we pay for more medical care as opposed to medical care that actually makes us healthier.

Hiatt: Did you consider, or would you consider, phasing in access and increasing access as you see the curve is bending, but slowing the growth in that entitlement if the (cost) curve is not being bent?

Obama: Well, I guess my thinking here is to separate out two questions. One is, are we paying for the health reform package in a deficit-neutral way—which, by the way, would stand in stark contrast to everything that's been done over the last eight years. ... So what I've said is I will not sign a bill that is not deficit-neutral.

Now, ... about two-thirds of the pay-fors come out of reallocating money that's already in the system, that the taxpayers are already spending but aren't getting good value for—the Medicare Advantage Plan, the subsidy to insurance companies, being a prime example.

We would then have to find revenue for the additional third. Now, the issue of making sure this is deficit-neutral is somewhat separate from the issue of bending the cost curve. I mean, conceivably, you could have a system that pays for itself, but doesn't bend the cost curve; it's going to cost you more and more. Or, alternatively, you could bend the cost curve, but not expand coverage. I think that it's important to do both ... to make sure that 46 million people who don't have health insurance get it ... for us to bend the cost curve, separate and apart from coverage issues, because the system we have right now is unsustainable and hugely inefficient and uncompetitive.

Hiatt: But if you got a bill that was universal access paid for but didn't have things you think are key to bending the curve, would you accept it?

Obama: No. Over time, what would happen would be that even if we had paid for it in the first 10 years, in the next 10 years if health-care inflation went up faster than whatever revenue source we had we'd be adding to the deficit then.

Hiatt: Economists say that you can't solve the fiscal problem if you don't solve the health problem. But they also say that a big part of the issue is demographics and aging. As you know, the 10-year budget shows the government raising 18 or 19 percent of (gross domestic product) in 2019, and spending 24 or 25 percent _

Obama: We have a structural gap that has to be closed.

What I think has to happen is if we can show that we have a disciplined health-care reform package that is serious about cost savings and is deficit-neutral, you combine that with the pay-go rules that we have been promoting ... and you are imposing some discipline on the appropriations process then I think we're in a position to be able to, either at the end of this year or early next year, start laying out a broader picture about how we are going to handle entitlements in a serious way.

It may start with Social Security because that's, frankly, the easier

one. And I think that it's possible to also look at tax reform and think about are there ways that we can maybe even lower marginal rates but eliminate all the loopholes and have that a net revenue generator. I think there are going to be a bunch of things that we can take a look at, but I think health-care reform combined with pay-go, combined with how we deal with appropriations bills over the next six months will help lay the foundation for us to be able to make some of these broader structural changes.

Hiatt: You'd start that in an election year?

Obama: Well, you probably have to set up some sort of commission or mechanism that reports back with the prospect of maybe locking in a pledge for action, post-election.

... The truth is you wouldn't want anything that would take effect until the economic recovery is much—on much firmer footing anyway.

Hiatt: And you'd be willing to look at a commission beyond Social Security—that sort of puts everything on the table?

Obama: Yes, I think everything is going to have to be on (the) table. But here's my concern. If ... health-care reform fails, there is no way that Congress is going to take up a serious effort to control health-care inflation—there's no way that we're going to pass the kinds of changes we've already talked about in Medicare, for example, in the absence of a more comprehensive reform package. And so what we're going to have is a situation in which ... the problem is just going to keep on getting worse.

Hiatt: One could say you have taken on early a lot of really hard things (but) put entitlement reform in the second tier. Why shouldn't deficit hawks be nervous?

Obama: I think that the perception that we haven't been worried about this is partly subject to circumstances. You had—we had to come out with a stimulus early. That was not what I would have preferred to do. I then had an omnibus because the previous administration and Congress had not been able to sort through their problems. ...

We then had, by law, we had to introduce our budget, and then we had the supplemental, all at a time when government revenues are tanking.

And so I understand why a deficit hawk would be nervous. I'm nervous about this.

But I just have to go back to the issue of health-care reform. If I can't get this done, then I don't know how we're going to make the draconian choices that would then be required to close this gap in a serious way.

Hiatt: It's hard to say there's many passionate people who talk about balancing the budget.

Obama: Right ... (But) I actually think that, sadly, decisions are going to be forced upon us.

Hiatt: By higher interest rates, or _

Obama: Yes, exactly. I mean, I think that if we don't show that we're serious in some fashion, then I think you're going to see a reluctance on the part of people who've been snapping up Treasuries to keep doing so.

Letters to the Editor

More wisdom, less haste

Because it was on "the list" (of ideas/sources of funding to repay the government debt to the Retirement Fund), and because the list was sent in by me (see last Friday's paper), some people have concluded that I support all of the ideas on the list. I have already been taxed with one in particular: that I support stopping the provision of housing for outside hirees.

I do not endorse, or support everything on that list. Some of the items need further refinement, are too broad, a few I wasn't even sure what was intended. But I thought it important to get the list out to stimulate discussion, to show everyone that floating a bond wasn't the only way to cure the problem of the government's ever-increasing debt to the Retirement Fund.

In terms of housing for outside hirees—which would appear to have become particularly critical in setting salaries for doctors at our Commonwealth Health Center—several factors present themselves.

In many ways it irks me that anyone thinks off-island hirees should receive the same salary working in the CNMI as they do on the mainland. Outside hirees get a huge break when they come to the CNMI: they do not have to pay income tax—and what they pay largely gets rebated.

And living in the CNMI, with the CNMI having basically one season—i.e., summer—most outside hirees don't have to deal with

the costs of heating homes year-round or with the need for different sets of clothing for each of the four seasons of the year, don't have to deal with the costs commuting long distances to shop, go to work, take kids to school, etc., or the costs of taking summer or winter beach-combing, scuba, fishing, sailing, or canoeing vacations.

These are all significant mainland costs that outside hirees save by coming to work in the CNMI. Off course, if those hirees insist on eating only imported mainland foods rather than learning to cook and eat local foods, if they insist on airconditioning 24/7—especially with the ultra-high cost of power on Saipan—those cost savings might not be so high. Nonetheless, they should be calculated when setting the remuneration levels for outside hirees in the CNMI.

However, I would submit that housing is a different matter. Outside hirees cannot buy homes. They are not entitled to homesteads. Having to pay rent is a drain on their income that offers no opportunity for investment, or savings, or security as they would have on the mainland. They do not have family, friends, relatives with whom to live with, or whose places are available to them, often at "bargain" rates—or for free. It is an additional cost to working in the CNMI that they did not have on the mainland. It is, therefore, only just and logical that this cost should also be calculated when setting the remuneration offered to outside hirees.

Instead, housing allowances for outside hirees are being dropped, withdrawn, leaving such hirees, in effect, with as much as a 25 percent cut in pay. Is it any wonder that so many are leaving—at CHC as well as elsewhere? "Differential" pay for CHC—for working night hours instead of the normal daytime hours—has also been stopped. This represents another 15 percent cut in pay. Is it any won-

der so many CHC doctors, technicians, other staff are leaving? No one can afford such cuts. Nor should they be expected to.

There must also be recognition of the costs for achieving and maintaining professional proficiency. The CNMI salary scales do not, in general, make any provision for the years of education and training, the levels of skill and experience, the cost of annual continuing education, that are required to become a certified public accountant, a nephrologist, an oncologist, a pharmacist, an attorney.

I have not tried to calculate whether the savings and the costs cancel each other out. It does seem, however, that more wisdom and less haste would go a long way toward keeping CHC's much-needed doctors and staff, among others, from resigning in such numbers.

Ruth L. Tighe

Tanapag, Saipan

Mission accomplished

On behalf of Kagman, thank you to Taga Riders, Office of Rep. Rosemond Santos, Office of Rep. Edward Salas, and the Kagman Komunitat Association for restoring the Kagman pavilions and abandoned bathroom building. Thank you to the "Be The Change" group and other volunteers for restoring the bus stops in Kagman. Your efforts and hard work is greatly appreciated. *Si yuus maase ginen i sengsong Hakmang.*






Jesse D. Torres

President, Kagman Komunitat Association

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Rain	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼80
Majuro	Rain	▲85 ▼80

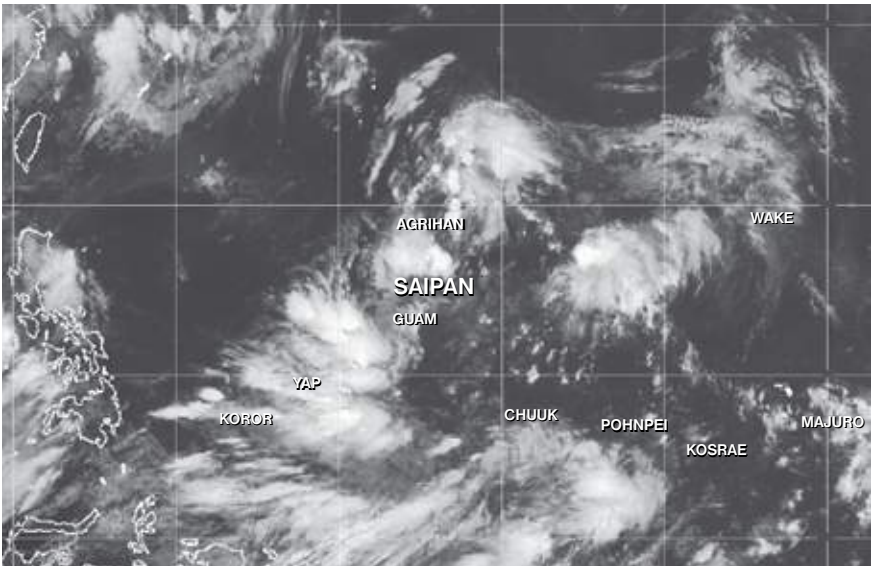
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼76
London	Cloudy	▲70 ▼57
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Rain	▲84 ▼79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲58 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
New York	Cloudy	▲87 ▼72
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲75 ▼62
Pusan	Showers	▲76 ▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲90 ▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲100 ▼61
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼63
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:51 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
12:50 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:28 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs southward from 22N146E to a circulation centered north of Saipan at 18N145E then continues southeastward as a monsoon trough through a weak circulation centered near Chuuk at 8N150E to end at EQ168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulations are seen northeast of the Marianas between 19N and 23N from 146E and 150E over the Marianas between 12N and 17N from 142E to 147E east of Yap to south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 10N141E to 4N153E and finally southeast of Pohnpei between the equator and 2N from 163E to 166E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau and just south of Yap within 200 miles of a line from 9N134E to 2N144E and also southwest of Wake Island between 14N and 19N from 156E to 163E. Trade-wind convergence to the east of a trough running northward from EQ170E to 10N170E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 170E to 180. This area includes Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:35 AM	11:21 PM
Wednesday	12:28 PM	
Thursday	1:22 PM	12:04 AM
Friday	2:16 PM	12:50 AM
Friday	3:09 PM	1:39 AM

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- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR11 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Guam real estate group to host unique conference

The 5th Micronesia Real Estate Investment Conference will take place at Guam's Leo Palace Resort on Oct. 2 and 3, 2009, according to a Captain Real Estate Group of Companies statement.

The conference theme will be "Micronesia Real Estate—Building Momentum."

"This conference will be particularly timely—given the anticipation surrounding the military buildup and coming investment opportunities, with an inevitable overflow effect into other islands. We expect that October 2009 will be a most appropriate time to review real estate investment options and strategies for the Micronesia region, against the background of financial and other considerations that affect the market," Captain

Real Estate Group of Companies president W. Nicholas Captain.

He said this year's MREIC will again feature an impressive slate of accomplished, well-recognized, international speakers with experience in real estate investing, capital markets, economics, military planning, construction, and other relevant sectors.

The MREIC started in 2001 and is held every two years in Guam. Attendance at the event has grown to nearly 300 delegates.

In October 2001, only weeks after 9/11, 120 delegates attended the first conference; 150 attended in September 2003; 175 in 2005, and just under 300 delegates attended in 2007.

The conferences have always presented a picture of real estate



Captain

issues in Micronesia, and are also forward-looking. Guam and surrounding islands have seen significant challenges for several months, largely caused by a worldwide economic downturn that affected the Micronesia region, exacerbated by several lo-

cal deterrents to a robust market.

As 2010 approaches, investors and developers should take heart from several developments on the horizon. At the 5th MREIC, a variety of expert speakers will address an audience of several hundred attendees and participate in a number of panel

presentations. The conferences provide attendees a unique opportunity to hear experts, peers and industry professionals speak and share information about real estate investment and development in the Pacific Rim.

"We have been very pleased at the top individuals who have

cleared their schedules to be at the first four conferences," Captain said. "This year is shaping up to be equally well-supported."

The MREIC offers delegates networking and leisure opportunities, as well as the Conference Technical Tour of relevant sites of interest. (PR)

APAFS ties up with USDA Graduate School to fortify finance education

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies has partnered with the USDA Graduate School, specifically its global arm, International Institute, for the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held in Manila, the Philippines, later this year. This is the third time that the two organizations have collaborated for the prestigious conference.

The Pacific Region Investment Conference is an education-forum that aims to provide its expected 400 delegates current and fundamental understanding of global financial issues and regional economic trends from world-class experts.

In order to promote professional learning and prudent fund stewardship, APAFS works with organizations such as the USDA Graduate School, a leader in providing continuing education



Roland

in a wide range of fields including accounting and auditing, economics, and leadership.

"Both APAFS and USDA Graduate School share the same mission of reinforcing accountability and excellence in financial management and professional training. Through its support, APAFS is in a better position to facilitate a rich exchange of

ON THE NET

www.apafs.org

knowledge and skills," said Daniel Roland, CIMA, executive director of APAFS.

A number of key global players in the financial industry have also pledged their support for the upcoming conference, such as Atalanta Sosnoff Capital; Metropolitan West Capital Management; ASC Trust Company; Franklin Templeton; Income Research & Management; Janus Capital Group; Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; Continental Airlines, among others.

The Pacific Region Investment Conference is set to be held on Oct. 8 and 9 at Renaissance Makati City Hotel Manila. To learn more about APAFS and the upcoming Pacific Region Investment Conference, log on to www.apafs.org. (APAFS)

Investors look to extend restarted rally

NEW YORK (AP)—A stock market that resumed its rally on upbeat earnings reports gets another batch of numbers this week - and must decide whether to keep going or backtrack.

Over the past two weeks, the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index have each jumped more than 11 percent as companies across almost every industry issued better-than-expected earnings reports or forecasts for the rest of 2009.

"It was a tremendous week," said Maury Fertig, chief investment officer at Relative Value Partners. "From the earnings front, it really was the driver" of the market's momentum.

AT&T Inc. and manufacturer 3M Co. beat expectations, while heavy equipment maker Cater-

pillar Inc., drug maker Wyeth, and candy maker Hershey Co. raised their profit forecasts.

The week's earnings and a surprisingly good existing home sales report sent stocks soaring and reassured investors that Wall Street had in fact restarted the rally that stalled in mid-June over concerns about the economic recovery. All the major market indexes, including the Dow, S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite index, rose at least 4 percent last week, and the Dow made it past 9,000 for the first time since early January.

This week, the question will be whether second-quarter results from major firms such as Visa Inc., Colgate-Palmolive Co. and ExxonMobil Corp. will enable the market to extend those gains.

So far, surprises have been outpacing disappointments by about 3-to-1, Fertig estimated. But, he warned, "If the shift is to more disappointment than surprises, (markets) could give up some gains of the last two weeks."

Net income figures are only part of what investors want to see. For some, companies' revenue and sales figures are more critical because they help indicate how much demand there is for goods and services in a struggling economy.

Moreover, many companies that have beaten analyst expectations have done so because they've slashed their expenses, something that cannot keep boosting profits indefinitely. Companies have to bring in more revenue if they're going to make more money.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil rises above \$68 as rally extends to third week

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above \$68 a barrel Monday in Asia as a rally fueled by an improving economic and corporate outlook extended into a third week. Benchmark crude for September delivery was up 59 cents to \$68.64 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the contract rose 89 cents to settle at \$68.05. Oil has rebounded from \$58.78 a barrel earlier this month as stronger economic results from the U.S. and China boosted investor optimism.

China tightening control over steel industry

BEIJING (AP)—China's stolen secrets case against an Australian working for Rio Tinto Ltd. may have more to do with Beijing's push to tighten control over its huge steel industry than trying to dampen industrial espionage. Chinese officials have complained for years that steel companies paid too much for foreign iron ore, failing to translate China's position as the world's biggest steel producer into clout at the bargaining table. A state-sanctioned industry group was brought in to fix that by taking over price talks. But the China Iron & Steel

Association was tripped up, Chinese state media say, because its bottom line was leaked to Rio. "The arrest of the Rio Tinto employees earlier this month appears to be the latest salvo in an ongoing battle between CISA and the major Chinese steel mills," the Chinese newspaper Economic Observer said.

Soda ash industry fights recession, Chinese rivals

GREEN RIVER, Wyo. (AP)—Beneath the arid sagebrush flats of southwest Wyoming, miners work around the clock to grind out millions of tons of trona rock that's hoisted to the surface and processed into a key ingredient for everything from baking soda and detergent, to glass and paper. Four of the United States' five soda ash producers are located above the Wyoming's vast trona reserves, which were formed by an evaporating lake 50 million years ago. Soda ash, or sodium carbonate, has been an anchor of the region since the 1940s, but these days, the industry is facing a confluence of difficult challenges. The economic recession, including weak demand for glass in the auto and construction sectors, contributed to a 24 percent drop in U.S. soda ash production between the last three months of 2008 and the first quarter of this year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.



AP

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke listens to opening remarks by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 22, 2009, as he testified before the committee's hearing on the semi-annual monetary policy report.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Sunday that he had to "hold my nose" over last year's taxpayer-financed bailouts of big financial companies but argued that the action had to be taken to avoid a major meltdown of the U.S. financial system and the broader economy.

Bernanke's comments came during a town-hall style meeting in Kansas City, Mo., where he was peppered with several

questions about government decisions last year to rescue so-called "too big to fail companies" like insurance giant American International Group, whose collapse would have wreaked havoc on the global economy.

A small-business owner complained to Bernanke that such actions were "hard to swallow," saying he felt like small businesses—also struggling to survive the recession and all the financial fallout—were being shortchanged.

"Nothing made me more frustrated, more angry, than having to intervene" when companies were "taking wild bets," Bernanke said. But not acting would have had grave consequences for the economy, he added.

"I was not going to be the Federal Reserve chairman who presided over the second Great Depression," he said. "I had to hold my nose. ... I'm as disgusted as you are. ... I absolutely understand your frustration."

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

NASA patches air-purifying system on space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A space station air purifier was working again Sunday after it shut down at the worst possible time, when company was still visiting and had swollen the on-board crowd to a record 13. The repair by flight controllers, albeit temporary, came as a great relief to NASA. Even if the carbon dioxide-removal system had remained broken, shuttle Endeavour would not have had to undock early from the international space station, said flight director Brian Smith. But the system needs to work to support six station residents over the long term, he said. The machine for cleansing the station atmosphere, on the U.S. side of the sprawling outpost, failed Saturday when it got too hot and tripped a circuit breaker.

4 cousins, mom, 3 others die in NY wrong-way crash

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, N.Y. (AP)—A family's minivan going in the wrong direction crashed into two cars on a suburban parkway on Sunday, killing eight people, including four young cousins and the mother of one of them. State police Investigator Joseph Becerra said the minivan was traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of the Taconic State Parkway in Westchester County, just north of New York City, when it struck an SUV and then careened into a third vehicle. The minivan rolled down an embankment, where it burst into flames. The minivan's front end appeared to have been almost entirely smashed in, and its shell was scorched and bent. At least one wheel was blown out.

Toddler shot in head at Ind. wedding reception

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—An 18-month-old Indiana girl was in critical condition Sunday after being shot in the head when a man open fired during a wedding reception, police said. The child, Yuridia Sosa, underwent surgery Sunday at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, said Lawrence police detective Gary Woodruff. The child's mother, Mariela Rodriguez, and another woman were shot in the legs but expected to recover. The other woman's name wasn't released.

Democrat says health overhaul needs GOP to pass

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats alone cannot pass President Barack Obama's ambitious overhaul of how Americans receive health care, a top lawmaker acknowledged on Sunday. Republicans said they will continue their opposition to a plan they say is simply a government takeover of private decisions.

Both sides said they want to improve the system and provide care for almost 50 million Americans who lack health insurance coverage, but they remain deeply divided over how to reach that goal. Republicans said the longer the delay, the more the public understands the stakes of a policy that has vexed lawmakers for decades.

"Republicans want to protect the right of Americans to make their own health care decisions, to pick their own doctors and their own plans," said Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. "We could have a plan in a few weeks if the goal is not a government takeover. We've never seen the government operate a plan of any kind effectively and at the budgets we talked about."

Democrats countered that their plans—and there are many iterations on Capitol Hill, as committees in both the House and Senate work on versions—would expand coverage without



In this photo provided by ABC News, Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., shakes hands with Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., after they appear for an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC's This Week, in Washington, Sunday, July 26, 2009.

adding to the deficit. Even so, they are likely to leave for an August recess without a vote.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said they are "80 percent" in agreement on what a final version will include and

are making progress.

In separate interviews, Obama adviser David Axelrod used the same line, underscoring the White House's desire to paint the missed deadline as a hiccup rather than a hurdle.

"Now, we're at the final 20 percent and we're trying to work through those details," Axelrod said during one appearance.

During another, he added: "We're less interested in hard deadlines than in moving the

process forward. The deadlines have had a disciplining effect. ... What we don't want is for the process to bog down here. We want to keep moving forward, and I believe we will.

That final piece, however, will require GOP backing—something Sen. Mitch McConnell said was unlikely. The Senate minority leader said congressional Democrats are having difficulty selling a health care bill to their own members.

"The only thing bipartisan about the measure so far is the opposition to it," said McConnell, R-Ky.

It's a reality a key Democratic senator acknowledged. Even though the Democrats enjoy a majority in the Senate, some are skittish about the financial or political costs of the proposals.

"Look, there are not the votes for Democrats to do this just on our side of the aisle," said Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., the chairman of the powerful budget committee.

Or even their side of the Capitol.

Rep. Jim Cooper, a Tennessee Democrat and a member of the fiscally conservative "Blue Dogs," said he doubts the Democratic-controlled House could pass a proposal.

Sarah Palin steps down as Alaska governor

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin stepped down Sunday as Alaska governor to write a book and build a right-of-center coalition, but she left her long-term political plans unclear and refused to address speculation she would seek a 2012 presidential bid.

In a fiery campaign-style speech, Palin said she was stepping down to take her political battles to a larger if unspecified stage and avoid an unproductive, lame duck status.

"With this decision, now, I will be able to fight even harder for you, for what is right, and for truth. And I have never felt that you need a title to do that," Palin said to raucous applause from about 5,000 people gathered at Pioneer Park in Fairbanks.

Her first order of business as a private citizen is to speak Aug. 8 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential



Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin gives her resignation speech during a ceremony in Fairbanks, Alaska, Sunday, July 26, 2009, where Palin turned over power to Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell.

Library in California. She also wants to campaign for political candidates from coast to coast, and continue to speak her mind on the social networking site Twitter, one of her favorite venues to reach out to supporters.

Free speech was a theme of her farewell speech at a crowded picnic in Fairbanks, as the 45-year-old outgoing governor scolded "some seemingly hell-bent on tearing down our nation" and warned Americans to "be wary of accepting government largesse. It doesn't come free."

She also took aim at the media, saying her replacement, Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell, "has a very nice family too, so leave his kids alone!"

And she told the media: "How about, in honor of the American soldier, you quit makin' things up?"

Soldiers in Colorado slayings tell of Iraq horrors

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Soldiers from an Army unit that had 10 infantriesmen accused of murder, attempted murder or manslaughter after returning to civilian life described a breakdown in discipline during their Iraq deployment in which troops murdered civilians, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Some Fort Carson, Colo.-based soldiers have had trouble adjusting to life back in the United States, saying they re-

fused to seek help, or were belittled or punished for seeking help. Others say they were ignored by their commanders, or coped through drug and alcohol abuse before they allegedly committed crimes, The Gazette of Colorado Springs said.

The Gazette based its report on months of interviews with soldiers and their families, medical and military records, court documents and photographs.

Several soldiers said unit

discipline deteriorated while in Iraq.

"Toward the end, we were so mad and tired and frustrated," said Daniel Freeman. "You came too close, we lit you up. You didn't stop, we ran your car over with the Bradley," an armored fighting vehicle.

With each roadside bombing, soldiers would fire in all directions "and just light the whole area up," said Anthony Marquez, a friend of Freeman

in the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment. "If anyone was around, that was their fault. We smoked 'em."

Taxi drivers got shot for no reason, and others were dropped off bridges after interrogations, said Marcus Mifflin, who was eventually discharged with post traumatic stress syndrome.

"You didn't get blamed unless someone could be absolutely sure you did something wrong," he said

Sex abuse testimony ends Alamo's long crime career

Of all the horrid accusations against evangelist Tony Alamo—and the list is long—it was the testimony of formerly loyal subjects, recounting "marriages" between their cult leader and girls as young as 8, that may end his 40-year rule and send him to prison for life.

Born Bernie Lazar Hoffman, the 74-year-old faces up to 175 years behind bars following his conviction Friday on 10 counts of transporting young girls across state lines for sexual purposes. Some jurors wept while women described being molested by and forced into sex with their decades-older pastor.

Among many who've watched Alamo's handiwork since the 1970s—which produced allegations including kidnapping, brainwashing, child abuse, tax evasion and threatening a federal judge—there was never any doubt the street-hustler-turned-pastor should be locked away for good. Their question is, what took so long?

"This man has been running around the country for decades getting away with doing awful things and hurtful things to people," said Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which lists Tony Alamo Christian Ministries as a hate group for its virulent anti-Catholicism and homophobic leaflets. (AP)

Asia

NKorea says it is open to new dialogue on nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Monday that it is open to new dialogue to defuse tensions over its nuclear weapons program in what appeared to be a call for direct talks with the United States.

The statement from Pyong-

yang's Foreign Ministry marks a rare expression of willingness to talk by a regime that has rapidly escalated tensions with a flurry of provocations in recent months, including a nuclear test and a series of missile launches.

It also suggests that the iso-

lated communist regime thinks it has raised its stakes enough, and it's time to negotiate.

On Monday, North Korea made clear again that it won't return to six-nation nuclear talks involving China, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and the U.S., saying the forum seeks only to "disarm and incapacitate" the nation.

But it added, "There is a specific and reserved form of dia-

logue that can address the current situation."

The statement did not elaborate on the new form of dialogue. But Pyongyang has long been known to be seeking direct negotiations with Washington.

On Friday, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Sin Son Ho, also indicated the regime's interest in bilateral negotiations, saying the country is "not against a dialogue,"

according to Japan's Kyodo News agency.

North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper also said Sunday that the country's envoy told an Asian security conference in Thailand last week that the nuclear standoff was a matter only between Pyongyang and Washington.

The United States says it is willing to hold direct talks with the North within the six-nation

process if it returns to the negotiating table and takes irreversible steps for denuclearization.

On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said on NBC television's "Meet the Press" that "the six-party talk framework, which had everybody included, is the appropriate way to engage with North Korea."

Clinton also said North Korea doesn't have any friends left.

North Korea quit the six-nation talks in April in anger over a U.N. rebuke of its long-range rocket launch. It has since further ratcheted up tensions with its second nuclear test on May 25 and a series of banned ballistic missile launches earlier this month.

The U.N. Security Council adopted a tough sanctions resolution to punish Pyongyang last month.

Washington has been rallying international support for stringent enforcement of the sanctions, and Clinton praised China—the North's main ally and benefactor—for being "extremely positive and productive" in pressuring Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear program.

"On North Korea, we've been extremely gratified by their forward-leaning commitment to sanctions and the private messages that they have conveyed to the North Koreans," Clinton said Sunday on NBC.

RP's Arroyo to defend legacy amid protests

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was expected to defend her spotty achievements during her final state of the nation address Monday against a backdrop of widespread protests that have dogged her turbulent 8 1/2-year rule in the Philippines.

The 62-year-old U.S.-trained economist, who has survived four coup attempts and four impeachment bids since 2001, has been accused by opposition politicians of maneuvering to extend her term, which ends next year.



Arroyo

Her aides deny the claim, saying her speech in Congress will focus on efforts to protect the country's economy from the global financial meltdown through a 10-point program promising a balanced budget, education for all, automated elections, improved infrastructure and peace with Muslim and communist rebels.

Such achievements have eluded the Philippines since Arroyo took power in 2001 in a second "people power" revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada on corruption charges. She won her own six-year term in 2004, but it was

put in doubt when allegations surfaced that she conspired to rig the vote.

Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing, but her ratings plummeted, street protests surged, restive military officers plotted to overthrow her, opposition lawmakers repeatedly initiated impeachment proceedings against her and a dozen Cabinet members resigned in protest.

But she weathered the crises, shielded from impeachment by a loyal majority in the House of Representatives and from coup attempts by faithful generals.

Prominent left-wing group Bayan said it expected up to 15,000 protesters near Congress, where police set up container vans and barbed wire to keep them at bay.

Left-wing Rep. Satur Ocampo said he and several other lawmakers will boycott Arroyo's speech and instead join protests to call for her to step down when her terms ends in June.

Ocampo said he expects Arroyo to paint a "rosy picture" of her tumultuous years in power despite the crushing poverty and high unemployment that plague the country.



South Korean protesters hold up their cards during a rally opposing the U.S. policy against North Korea near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul Sunday, July 26, 2009.

Suu Kyi trial enters final phase in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The trial of Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi entered its final phase Monday, with the prosecution scheduled to deliver its closing arguments, a government official said.

Suu Kyi, 64, is charged with violating the terms of her house arrest by harboring an uninvited American man who swam to her lakeside home and stayed

for two days. She faces a possible five years in prison.

Suu Kyi's lawyer Nyan Win said he expected the verdict to be delivered in two to three weeks.

The official, who demanded anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the press, said the lawyer for American John W. Yettaw, 53, of Falcon, Missouri, will also give his final arguments. Two female companions of Suu Kyi were to present statements before the court.

Diplomats from the United States, Singapore, Australia, Japan, the Philippines and Malaysia were allowed to attend the session, one of the diplomats told reporters.

Washington, which has posted no ambassador to Myanmar, is represented by the deputy chief of mission, Larry Dinger.

Yettaw was charged with criminal trespass, which carries a maximum jail term of three months. He also faces a municipal charge for swim-

ming in a non-swimming area and is accused of immigration violations.

Yettaw has pleaded not guilty and explained in court that he had a dream that Suu Kyi would be assassinated and he had gone to warn her.

"I will try my best to defend my client. I will argue that he did not violate the restriction order and I will try my utmost to get him lesser punishment," Khin Maung Oo, Yettaw's lawyer, said over the weekend.

Myanmar may get more money in fight against AIDS

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Shrunken to 30 pounds of skin and bones, Ma Moe could barely walk when she arrived on the doorstep of the clinic nearly two years ago. AIDS had killed her husband three years earlier, and it was slowly killing her.

If not for the free medicine she receives, she would be dead, the 35-year-old widow said as she waited for her monthly visit. "I had no money, my house was destroyed by (Cyclone) Nargis, I had nowhere else to go."

The modest one-story wooden clinic, one of two dozen run by international aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres, is on the front lines of Myanmar's

struggle against HIV/AIDS, a disease that often spells a slow death sentence for Burmese because of a shortage of anti-retroviral medicines. As foreign donors largely shunned this isolated military-run nation, its AIDS epidemic, one of the most serious in Asia, steadily worsened out of the spotlight.

But now Western governments and donors have begun re-assessing their approach after years of tough sanctions failed to yield much progress. The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a major international donor that pulled out in 2005, is considering returning to Myanmar, a decision that could inject millions

of dollars in funding and triple the number of people getting life-saving medicine.

Donors have long feared that aid would only bolster the iron-hand rule of the military government. Myanmar receives only about \$3 per capita in aid, compared with \$23 for Vietnam and \$50 for Laos.

An estimated 240,000 people are infected by the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Of those, about 76,000 are in need of the life-saving anti-retroviral treatment, but less than a quarter of them—about 18,000—are getting it. The lack of accessible treatment translates into about 25,000 deaths a year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India launches first nuclear-powered submarine

NEW DELHI (AP)—India on Sunday launched the first nuclear-powered submarine built on its soil, asserting itself as a world power by joining just five other countries that can design and construct such vessels. The 367-foot (112-meter) -long submarine, named "Arihant" or "Destroyer of Enemies," was sent for sea trials at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. It will be capable of launching nuclear weapons, said Rahul Bedi, an analyst with Jane's Defence Weekly.

Pakistan arrests influential pro-Taliban cleric

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Police arrested an influential pro-Taliban cleric on Sunday who had brokered a failed peace deal in northern Pakistan's troubled Swat Valley, an indication the government will no longer negotiate with militants. Authorities accused Sufi Muhammad, father-in-law of Swat's notorious Taliban leader Maulana Fa-

zlullah, of encouraging violence and terrorism. The peace deal in February imposed Sharia, or Islamic law, in the valley in exchange for an end to two years of fighting. But it was widely seen as handing over control of the valley, once a popular tourist destination, to the Taliban.

Hackers put China flag on Australian film Web site

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Hackers posted a Chinese flag on the Web site of an Australian film festival in an escalation of protests against the planned appearance by an exiled Uighur activist whom Beijing blames for deadly ethnic riots in China's west, an official said Sunday. The cyberattack on the Melbourne International Film Festival—which also received a flurry of critical e-mails—came after four Chinese films pulled out of the event and a Chinese diplomat protested the screening of a documentary about activist Rebiya Kadeer, whom Beijing says incited the violence this month between Muslim Uighurs and Han Chinese that left nearly 200 dead.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Envoy: US favors overall Mideast peace accord

JERUSALEM (AP)—President Barack Obama's Mideast envoy called on the Arab world to take steps toward normalizing relations with Israel, and Israel's prime minister said he hoped his country's disputes with the U.S. over West Bank settlement construction would soon be resolved. Envoy George Mitchell, opening a new round of peace efforts in the region on Sunday, played down the differences with Israel "as discussions among friends." His comments, along with those of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, appeared to be aimed at lowering recent tensions as the U.S. tries to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and work for a broader peace between Israel and the Arab world. Mitchell arrived in Israel from Syria, where he told his hosts the U.S. is determined to achieve a "truly comprehensive" peace settlement that includes normal relations between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors.

Gaza judge tells female lawyers to wear head scarf

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza's top judge said Sunday that he has ordered female lawyers to wear Muslim headscarves when they appear in court, the latest sign that the Islamic militant group is increasingly imposing its strict interpretation of Islamic law on residents of the coastal strip. Supreme Court chief justice Abdul-Raouf Halabi said female lawyers will be required to wear a headscarf and a long, dark colored cloak under their billowing black robes when the court returns from its summer recess in September. Halabi said his order was designed to ensure that women dress in accordance with Islamic law, which requires women to cover up in public, wearing loose garments and only showing their hands and faces.

Mexico police name suspect in border agent death

CHULA VISTA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in Mexico have named the man suspected of fatally shooting a U.S. Border Patrol agent. Mexican federal police said Sunday the main suspect in the killing is 36-year-old Ernesto Parra Valenzuela. Parra Valenzuela was detained on Friday and was reportedly carrying a Border Patrol-issued pistol at the time of his arrest. Records show Parra Valenzuela had not retained an attorney Sunday. Four other men suspected of involvement in the killing were detained Saturday. Authorities wouldn't say what role, if any, the other four men may have played in the death of Agent Robert Rosas, a 30-year-old father of two who was killed Thursday near the Mexican border in southeastern San Diego County.

Revolutionary Guard tightens hold in Iran crisis

CAIRO (AP)—The Revolutionary Guard tightened its already powerful hold over Iran during the post-election turmoil, raising alarm among some Iranians that it is transforming the Islamic Republic into a military state.

The elite force and an affiliated volunteer militia, the Basij, led the crack-down against street protesters who claim mass fraud in the June 12 election after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the winner in a landslide. At least 20 protesters have been killed in clashes and hundreds detained.

The Revolutionary Guard weighed in at key moments of the crisis.

Two days before the election, with the reformists' Western-style campaign at its zenith, the Guard warned it would crush any attempt at a popular "revolution." A few days after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei admonished demonstrators in a Friday prayer sermon to stop protests or face the consequences, the Guard followed up with its sternest warning to prepare for a "revolutionary confrontation" if protesters take to the streets again. A harsh crack-down followed.

The Guard was created following the 1979 Islamic revolution as an ideological force to defend Iran's clerical rule and root out the enemies of the newly born Islamic Republic. The 120,000-strong force has its own ground, naval, air and missile units and is believed to be better armed and equipped than the far larger regular military.

On top of its enormous military power, the force in recent years has amassed a network of economic and political power extending to virtually every aspect of life in Iran. Now some fear it has gone beyond protecting the system to dominating it. Even Khamenei may have become overly dependent on the



In this Monday, Nov. 26, 2007 file photo, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, bottom center, reviews troops at a gathering of Basij militia forces, in Tehran, Iran, as Revolutionary Guards commander Mohammad Ali Jafari salutes, at right, and army commander Ataollah Salehi salutes, at left.

Guards, some experts say.

The Guard is also believed to be the vanguard for Iran's ties with militant groups abroad, providing training for Hezbollah in Lebanon and, the U.S. says, Shiite militants in Iraq. That has led Washington to brand the force as a supporter of terrorism.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, who claims he won the presidential election, and other pro-reform leaders appealed to Iran's top Shiite religious figures over the weekend to speak out against the growing crackdown. They warned of "the spread of tyranny in the Islamic Republic system."

Last week, Mousavi warned Iranian society was becoming "more militarized" and being pushed into a "near coup d'etat atmosphere." He said security forces must adhere to the constitution to guarantee the voice of the people in decision-making.

But the Guard's power has been building for a long time and isn't likely to stop, Iran expert Frederic Tellier said.

"The current crisis is less a coup d'etat than the final phase of their conquest of power and a likely foretaste of a far more ruthless and systematic political purge to come," said Tellier of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

He predicted the force's final grab of the reins of power in Iran may come after the death of 70-year-old Khamenei, when they can impose a new political model: a collective leadership or outright military rule.

In recent years, the Guard has extended its power far beyond the military. It controls a multibillion dollar business empire, built up during reconstruction from the devastation of the 1980-88 war with neighboring Iraq.

Ousted Honduran leader cites divisions at home

OCOTAL, Nicaragua (AP)—Ousted President Manuel Zelaya has encamped his roving government-in-exile in this sleepy mountain town near the Honduran border to launch his return to power after a coup last month.

After weeks of shuttling between Central America and Washington, Zelaya said he would not leave the border region for at least a week, despite a U.S. State Department spokesman saying he would arrive Tuesday in Washington to restart negotiations with the interim government that deposed him.

"This week of my life is for me to occupy myself with the Honduran people," Zelaya told reporters as well as Honduran supporters gathered in Ocotal late Sunday night.

Zelaya cited a recently posted statement on the Honduran military's Web site as evidence of division between armed forces and the interim government.

The statement reaffirms the military's subordination to ci-

vilian authorities. But it also voices support for a solution to the nation's political crisis through an internationally mediated accord. The accord, earlier rejected by the civilian government, proposed reinstating Zelaya under a power-sharing agreement.

"This communique from the army speaks clearly ... that there are two states: a civilian state and a military state," said Zelaya, who has made repeated public appeals to the military to disobey the interim government. "There is an internal rebellion between them."

Zelaya has drawn throngs of supporters and locals curious about the celebrity who has brought world attention and international media to the town of 35,000 just 15 miles (25 kilometers) from the Honduran border.

Teenagers riding two to a bicycle, wrinkled coffee farmers, a shoeshine boy, a young mother and child all gathered to catch a glimpse of the now-famous politician in the white cowboy hat.

Opposition in Iraqi Kurd elections claims gains

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq (AP)—An opposition party on Sunday claimed there had been violations in the presidential and parliamentary elections in Iraq's self-ruled Kurdish region but said it still expected a strong showing.

The opposition front called "Change" was at the heart of a push for reform in a bid to shake up the political establishment in Iraq's three Kurdish-ruled provinces that have been dominated by two parties for decades.

The semiautonomous Kurdish region has largely escaped

the violence that has plagued the rest of the country since the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Underscoring the persistent dangers facing Iraqis elsewhere in the country, a suicide bomber struck a funeral in a former insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad, killing as many as five people, including two policemen, according to authorities.

The attacker detonated his explosives belt at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday while mourners were gathered in a tent for the funeral of a police officer killed

in a roadside bombing the night before in the Anbar province town of Khadiyah.

Two police officers and three civilians were killed in the suicide bombing, according to a policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

Provincial police commander Maj. Gen. Tariq Youssef confirmed two police officers were killed and six were wounded but said he couldn't immediately provide information about civilian casualties.

Sarkozy hospitalized after collapsing during jog

PARIS (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy collapsed while jogging Sunday on the lush grounds of the Chateau of Versailles and will stay at a hospital overnight even though tests so far have found nothing wrong, his office said.

Military doctors quickly performed a battery of tests on the 54-year-old president, who is known for his hyperactivity. The presidential Elysee Palace said Sarkozy's test results were normal but that doctors would

keep him under cardiological observation until Monday.

Upon his collapse, Sarkozy was rushed by helicopter to a military hospital. His office denied the president had lost consciousness in the episode. The Elysee Palace statement followed reports from members of Sarkozy's government and his chief of staff, who had indicated that Sarkozy had lost consciousness.

"Today, late in the morning, while he was jogging in the park

at the Chateau of Versailles, the president of the republic felt unwell. This episode, which came after 45 minutes of intense physical activity, was not accompanied by a loss of consciousness," the palace statement said.

Sarkozy, an avid jogger and cyclist, was forced to interrupt his run and "lie down with the help of an aide," the statement said. A presidential doctor who is with Sarkozy at all times sounded the alert and administered initial treatment.

Overdrive

2009 TOYOTA YARIS

What we say we want, not what we really want

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

The Yaris and all other subcompact fuel misers lacking them need an upgrade to four-wheel disc brakes. I disagree with critics who call these little cars "underpowered." They are what they're supposed to be—reasonably safe, fuel-efficient, primarily urban transportation.

DRIVE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

It performs decently in all three categories, meeting the expectations of urban-suburban commuters who spend much of their lives in traffic jams.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

It's bulldog ugly. But lots of people love bulldogs.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Yaris is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive subcompact offered in three basic body styles—three-door hatchback, five-door hatchback and four-door sedan. There are 10 trim (styling and content) arrangements for those bodies.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSIONS

All Yaris models come with a 1.5-liter, 16-valve inline four-cylinder engine that develops 106 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 103 foot-pounds of torque at 4,200 revolutions per minute. The engine is linked to a standard five-speed manual transmission. A four-speed automatic is optional.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Maximum cargo capacity with rear seats lowered is 26 cubic feet. With rear seats raised, cargo room shrinks to 9.3 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 11.1 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline.

REAL-WORLD MILEAGE

We got 34 miles per gallon in mostly highway driving.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes four-wheel antilock brake protection, side and head airbags. Electronic stability and traction control and four-wheel disc brakes were not available at this writing.

PRICE

The tested 2009 Yaris S with manual transmission starts at \$14,025. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$13,323. Price as tested is \$14,775, including a transportation charge of \$750. Dealer's price as tested is \$14,073. There is a \$500 rebate at the time of this writing. Prices are sourced from Toyota, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

In alphabetical order, compare with Chevrolet Aveo, Honda Fit, Honda Insight (gas-electric), Hyundai Accent, Nissan Versa.

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—It can fit into the tiniest of legal parking spots—and do so with minimum maneuvering.

It gets 29 miles per gallon in the city and 36 miles per gallon on the highway using regular unleaded gasoline. But its 1.5-liter, 106-horsepower four-cylinder engine can pull it out of trouble when it needs to get going.

With rear seats lowered in the three-door hatchback version driven for this column, it has space enough to carry a camper and her stuff to a summer of fun (we hope) in the Catskill Mountains.

And with 10 iterations base-priced from \$12,205 to \$14,825, it is well within the affordability range of most consumers.

Yet, for all of its many virtues, the little Toyota Yaris is selling poorly in this country, where its retail numbers are down 40.4 percent in the first six months of 2009.

This is puzzling. Were the Yaris a piece of motorized junk, I could understand its dismal sales performance. But it's built with legendary Toyota quality and reliability. True, it is challenged by many worthy contenders—the Honda Civic, Honda Fit, Hyundai Accent, Nissan Versa and Chevrolet Aveo, among them. But those gas-pump teetotalers also are struggling in the marketplace.

I am all the more confused because so many of you readers write, call or send e-mails complaining when I review a truck, sports car or luxury automobile. You say that such automotive reviews are meaningless and bordering on consumer insult in our deepest economic downturn in decades. You urge me to review more practical, affordable vehicles. I have and will continue to do so.

But here is what for many of you will be a hard-to-swallow truth: Fuel-sippers such as the Yaris are selling in numbers well below those of the Ford F-series and Chevrolet Silverado pickup trucks. Witness the Automotive News Data Center top-10 rankings for the first six months of 2009:

Ford's F-Series trucks hold the top with sales of 179,632. The Toyota mid-



WARREN BROWN (POST SPECIAL)

The little Toyota Yaris can fit into the tiniest of legal parking spots, gets 29 miles per gallon in the city and has space enough to carry a camper and her stuff to a summer of fun. And it is well within the affordability range of most consumers.

size family sedan comes in second, with 150,242; and the Chevrolet Silverado pickup—in a year when GM, its parent company, entered and exited bankruptcy—is a close third, with sales of 149,949.

Semi-fuel-misers making the Automotive News Data Center's Top 10 list for the first six months of 2009 include the Toyota Corolla and Toyota Matrix wagon—the latter built on the Corolla platform—which collectively hold fifth place with sales of 121,643. Sixth place is held by the venerable Honda Civic, with sales of 118,459.

But for genuine fuel misers, including the hyperbolically touted gas-electric Toyota Prius hybrid—with sales of

55,751 for the first half of 2009 compared with 91,440 in the corresponding 2008 period, an era of \$4 gas in the United States—it's been an awful retail season.

In a strained attempt to divine the generally miserable retail performance of the fuel-sipping class, I drove the 2009 Toyota Yaris S, a front-wheel-drive subcompact with a five-speed manual transmission that does its best work in city traffic.

Could it be that small cars elevate consumer concerns about safety? It's possible. In vehicle-to-vehicle crashes, larger vehicles usually win, according to data collected by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. But the Yaris is reasonably adept at avoiding crashes.



LEXUS HYBRID

Models Rio Mori, left, and Kurara Chibana pose next to Toyota Motor Corp.'s first hybrid model Lexus HS250h in Tokyo, Japan. Toyota, the world's top automaker, is rolling out its first hybrid-only Lexus luxury model to hope to turn itself around by pushing the increasingly popular green technology.

AP PHOTO/JUNJI KUROKAWA

Nissan gives preview of prized electric car

MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

YOKOSUKA, Japan—Nissan Motor Co. showed off its super-quiet, zero-emission electric car Monday—a key green offering for Japan's No. 3 automaker, which has fallen behind in hybrid technology.

Nissan showed the prototype in a Tiida compact that is already on sale. It is withholding the unveiling of the electric car's exterior design until the Tokyo-based manufacturer opens its new Yokohama headquarters Aug. 2.

"Nissan will be a leader in zero-emission vehicles," Chief Operating Officer Toshiyuki Shiga said ahead of a test-drive event at the automaker's facility in this Tokyo suburb. "EV is the answer."

Sales of Nissan's electric vehicle are scheduled to begin in Japan and the U.S. next year. Nissan says it plans to mass produce zero-emission cars globally from 2012.

Nissan has received a \$1.6 billion loan from the U.S. Department of Energy to modify its Smyrna, Tennessee, plant to produce electric vehicles and batteries to power them, with production starting in 2012.

The car shown Monday uses a lithium-ion battery pack that is placed under the vehicle floor to allow for more cabin and luggage space. The braking system recharges the battery while the car is driving, extending the driving range to 160 kilometers (99 miles) under a full charge, Nissan said.

Proponents of hybrids, like market-

leader Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest automaker, say the limited driving range of electric vehicles makes them suited for daily commutes or shopping at best, and so hybrids are the best solution.

Hybrids have gas engines as well as a motor on board, and they charge themselves as they scoot along so they don't have to be plugged in for charging, as do electric cars.

Nissan's electric vehicle shows on its navigation map screen on the dashboard the driving radius within range of the car's charge, so drivers won't get stranded on the highway. It can also calculate if the vehicle is within range of a destination.

Nissan has promised to tackle the other widely viewed obstacle to the proliferation of electric vehicles—pricing.

Although Nissan has yet to announce the price, company spokeswoman Pauline Kee said the electric vehicle would be "competitive" with regular gasoline vehicles.

In June, Nissan's smaller Japanese rival, Mitsubishi Motors Corp., launched its electric vehicle, the 4.59 million yen (\$48,300) i-MiEV. The company has acknowledged that maybe be too expensive for most consumers.

Other carmakers, including U.S.-based Tesla Motors, are also racing to make electric cars.

Toyota has said it plans to sell electric vehicles in the U.S. by 2012 while Chinese automaker Dongfeng Motor Corp. has teamed up with a Dutch-based company to develop and make electric cars.

Life & Style

HOLLYWOOD—How do true movie stars respond in the face of a bomb threat?

The show must go on, bien sur. Two hours after an anonymous phone call forced the evacuation of a Beverly Hills hotel, thrusting “The Ugly Truth” stars Katherine Heigl and Gerard Butler, along with a posse of journalists, onto the cozy median of the street and then across to a nearby Italian restaurant, Butler is back relaxing in his room, ready to laugh off the morning’s events.

“Now we’re sitting in the hotel where the bomb was about to go off,” the 39-year-old Scottish star says mockingly. “I’ve sent (my publicist) to check the vents.”

It’s been that kind of 48 hours for the bleary-eyed Butler, who finished a day of shooting in New York on his new action-comedy, “The Bounty,” with Jennifer Aniston, hopped the last flight to Los Angeles, went on to tape Conan O’Brien’s and Craig Ferguson’s shows, attended an impromptu script meeting, walked the red carpet at his “Ugly Truth” premiere and then hosted a screening of a film he produced and stars in, “Law Abiding Citizen,” for a hundred of his closest friends, visiting with them until 2 a.m.

This said, no one can accuse Butler of not rallying. Stretching out on a couch, he’s musing on his own personal take on the perennial male-female divide, which is the leitmotif of “The Ugly Truth,” his new and somewhat raunchy R-rated comedy, as well as an obsession for the various female-laden Gerry Butler fan clubs that have been sprouting up around the globe.

In the film, in theaters Friday, Butler plays the unrepentantly macho Mike Chadway, who becomes an unlikely media sensation after airing his retrograde opinions about the differences between men and women in a TV bit called “The Ugly Truth.” His soaring popularity appalls the show’s producer, played by Katherine Heigl, who nonetheless draws on Chadway’s insights for help in snagging her dream man. Not surprisingly, sensitivity lurks under Chadway’s shield of id, and the film draws beats from such classic sources as “The Taming of the Shrew,” “Cyrano de Bergerac” and “When Harry Met Sally.”

Butler’s not-so-gentle advice to the opposite sex? “Pretty girls, lose the attitude,” says the single, 6-foot-2 Los Angeles transplant. “Who needs it? Life’s too short. You’re not a brain surgeon. In Los Angeles and New York, where there’s definitely a high concentration of beautiful women ... a lot of them take themselves way too seriously. Their beauty feels like it’s become a weapon. There’s nothing more attractive to a guy than a beautiful woman who has her defenses down.”

He stops, and takes a second to edit himself. “Well, maybe not that. That sounds animalistic, like you’re on the prowl.” He then clarifies. What he finds most alluring is “a beautiful woman who seems unaware of it.”

It’s been a long time since a real

man’s man—one who reeks of brutish carnality and uninhibited good times—has strode through a romantic comedy. Has one of the unintended consequences of women’s liberation, at least in movies, been the ultra-sensitizing of men, at least in the one genre in which women often play top dog? Butler him-

DiCaprios and Efrons of the world. He has a physique like a soccer player, a slightly mashed-in face, mischievous blue eyes, an air of cheekiness, a dash of palpable decency and a kind of crackly, electric energy that hums almost obsessively, even though, on this particular day, he’s clearly exhausted. In his relative youth, this onetime lawyer (yes, you read right, a lawyer) was addicted to carousing and brawling—now his drug of choice appears to be work; he has five movies rolling into theaters over the next year.

For many women, “The Ugly Truth” will be their first introduction to Butler,

of Life,” “Timeline” and “Reign of Fire,” as well as the Phantom in the derided movie version of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical “Phantom of the Opera.”

Asked why he’s often cast as heroes of yore, Butler deadpans: “I think it’s because of my incredible power and charisma as a person.”

“I don’t know,” he adds with a laugh, although he notes that he’s something of a history buff. “I’m fascinated with history in a dreamy way.... To take on these roles, when you dress up and go on these locations ... I find it exciting and incredibly profound.”

said to me, ‘Gee, he’s really attractive.’ Heterosexuals find themselves oddly drawn into his orbit.”

“Having a strong male character provides a good counterbalance for a ballsy woman,” Lutz adds. “Gerry is the guy who will call you on your (nonsense). . . Every strong woman needs that. Gerry will definitely give you (a hard time) when he feels you need it—in a friendly big-brother way. He’ll be like, ‘What’s up with your hair?’”

For Butler, part of the appeal of playing Chadway turned out to be Heigl, whom he met only two days before the start of filming. He says she is a sharp blonde not overly enchanted with her own loveliness. “From the second we met, I was bowled over. I always felt that Katie keeps me on my toes. I had to be on my game all the time.

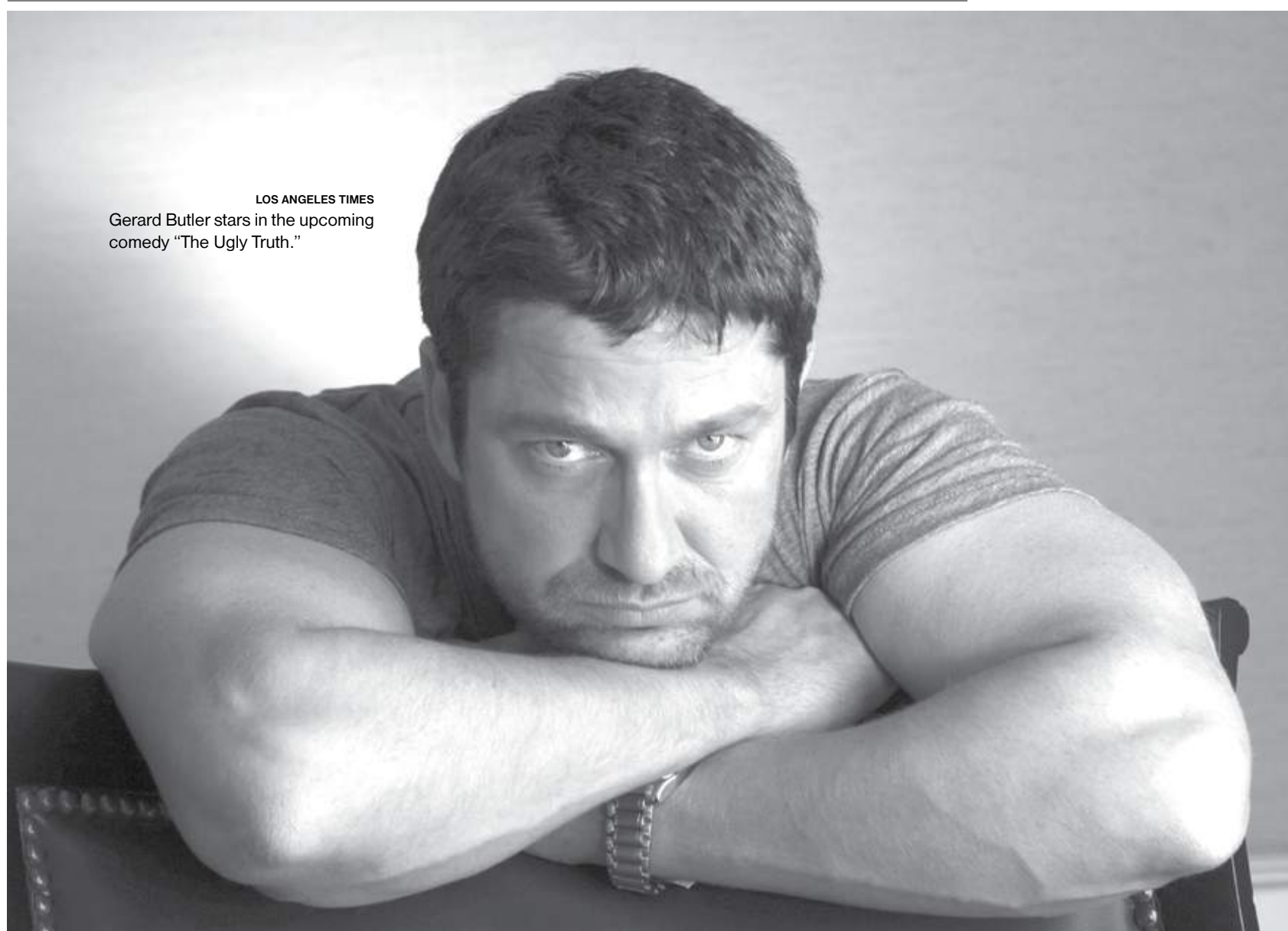
“Your nerve endings,” he says, relishing the memory, “they bristle a little more.”

“To be honest, I think I have chemistry with everybody,” he adds waggishly.

That statement, the actor says, wasn’t meant to come across as arrogant.

Butler isn’t interested in playing the nice guy

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Gerard Butler stars in the upcoming comedy “The Ugly Truth.”

“To be honest, I think I have chemistry with everybody.”

self has turned down a bunch of those roles, he says, mostly because the men “are normally these cookie-cutter characters. Very saccharine and sweet. The guys are often more like chicks.”

There’s no one on the planet who’d ever mistake Butler for what Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has famously termed a “girlie man.” He is handsome but not beautiful like so many American movie stars—the Cruises, Pitts,

who’s primarily earned his Hollywood chops playing heroes and kings, most notably in his breakout role as Spartan King Leonidas in “300,” the visually spectacular film of Frank Miller’s graphic novel about the battle of Thermopylae. For the record, he’s also played Attila the Hun and Beowulf, plus an early panoply of men of action in such B-grade testosterone films as “Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle

And that crack about charisma? Only partly a joke.

“He’s the Bill Clinton of movie stars,” says screenwriter Kirsten Smith in a separate interview. Smith, who penned “Legally Blonde” and reunited with that movie’s creative team, including writing partner Karen McCullah Lutz and director Robert Luketic, for “The Ugly Truth,” adds that at the movie’s premiere “there were several men who

For Butler, the key to chemistry is making it work no matter what. Failure is not an option, he says. This is the guy who personally called Alan Horn, head of Warner Bros., to lobby for the lead role in “300.”

“There are times when you have less chemistry” with a woman, or even a male star, Butler says. “There are a couple of movies that I had to put extra effort into making the friendship work. You have to push it a little harder to make sure it works.

“Then again, that is probably balanced out by many areas where I lacked,” he adds, with a laugh. “And the other actors had to make up for my misfirings.”

Whitney Houston gives voice to hope

By GREG BRAXTON
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—Whitney Houston did not have to sing a note Thursday night to spark a rousing ovation from a crowd of celebrities and record-industry heavyweights.

Houston—whose hugely successful singing and acting career has been shadowed in the last several years by tabloid headlines, including her tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown and allegations of substance abuse—made a triumphant appearance at the Beverly Hilton hotel at the end of a preview of her upcoming comeback album, scheduled for release Sept. 1.

As the throbbing beat of her up-tempo version of Leon Russell's usually intimate ballad "A Song for You" filled the standing-room-only ballroom, Houston emerged from behind a curtain, smiling and clapping as some audience members danced in front of her.

Looking slim and wearing an elegantly simple knee-length black dress, Houston seemed genuinely moved by the reception from the audience—an eclectic mix from the worlds of movies (Jane Fonda, Halle Berry and Penny Marshall, the last of whom directed Houston in 1996's "The Preacher's Wife"), music (Stevie Wonder, Barry Manilow and Brian McKnight), industry honchos (Suzanne De Passe, Diane Warren and Richard Perry) and sports (Magic Johnson).

Also in attendance were several family members, including her teenage daughter, Bobbi Kristina, and a newly adopted son.

"God bless you all," Houston said, blowing kisses and stretching her hands out to the crowd. "I am humbled. Thank you all for coming."

She seemed particularly excited when she spotted Berry and Fonda ("I almost croaked when I found out Jane Fonda was coming to my listening party. How cool am I?")



In this image provided by Sony Music singer Whitney Houston and Chief Creative Officer, Sony Music Worldwide, Clive Davis, right, are shown during the Whitney Houston "I Look To You" CD Listening Party held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Thursday July 23, 2009 in Beverly Hills, California.

Coming after Houston's six-year absence from the studio, the album, "I Look to You," has long been enveloped by speculation about whether Houston has lost the vocal prowess and charisma that made her one of the most successful female singers of the last two decades.

That speculation has been fueled by some appearances in the past in which her singing voice sounded scratched and strained.

But music mogul Clive Davis—who discovered Houston and has been spearheading her comeback,

including a performance at his pre-Grammy party in February—said the album should leave little doubt that Houston is still "one of the all-time great vocalists."

He said the album took more than three years to complete "because we kept wanting to set the bar high, in the tradition of the great vocalists, such as Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughan and Lena Horne."

"I took my time," Houston later added.

Thursday's unveiling came on the heels of listening parties in

London and New York. Before Davis presented the songs, a clip was shown of Houston performing some of her most popular hits, including "I Will Always Love You," "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and "One Moment in Time."

Her new album, based on the nine "unfinished versions" previewed, appears to be a mix of dance tunes, mid-tempo songs and power ballads, with state-of-the-art production surrounding Houston's confident, smooth stylings.

Writers and producers who worked on the album include Warren, David Foster, Akon and Alicia Keys. R. Kelly, who has his own notorious past, contributed two songs, including the title track, an ode to spirituality and a higher power.

Many of the songs were greeted enthusiastically, with the Keys-written "Million Dollar Bill" generating one of the loudest ovations.

Some of the songs appeared to subtly reference Houston's struggles. Warren's "I Didn't Know My Own Strength" contains the line "I was not built to break," and the singer said she related to the song because of her struggles as a single mother.

In "Nothin' but Love," Houston maintains she has nothing but love for "the family that raised me, the teachers that praised me" and "even the ones who tried to break me."

She mentioned her troubled history during her remarks later that evening, when she paid an emotional tribute to Davis.

"Those years when we were apart, I was lost," Houston said to Davis. "But now I'm home, where I belong."

Man credits sweater for Hemingway contest win

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Wearing a wool fisherman's sweater in 90-degree heat, a Texas man won an Ernest Hemingway look-alike contest at a Key West festival honoring the late Nobel prize-winning author.

White-bearded David Douglas, 55, bested 139 other contenders at the "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, staged Saturday night at Sloppy Joe's Bar, the author's favorite watering hole.

Douglas' attire emulated Hemingway's appearance in a famous 1957 photograph by Yousuf Karsh.

"It's very possible the sweater did it," said a perspiring Douglas of his victory. "It's about 120 (degrees) inside the sweater, but it's worth it."

Douglas, from Cypress, Texas, won the competition on his eighth attempt after originally entering on a dare.

The mechanical contractor said he shares Hemingway's fondness for fishing and cocktails, but has no literary aspirations.

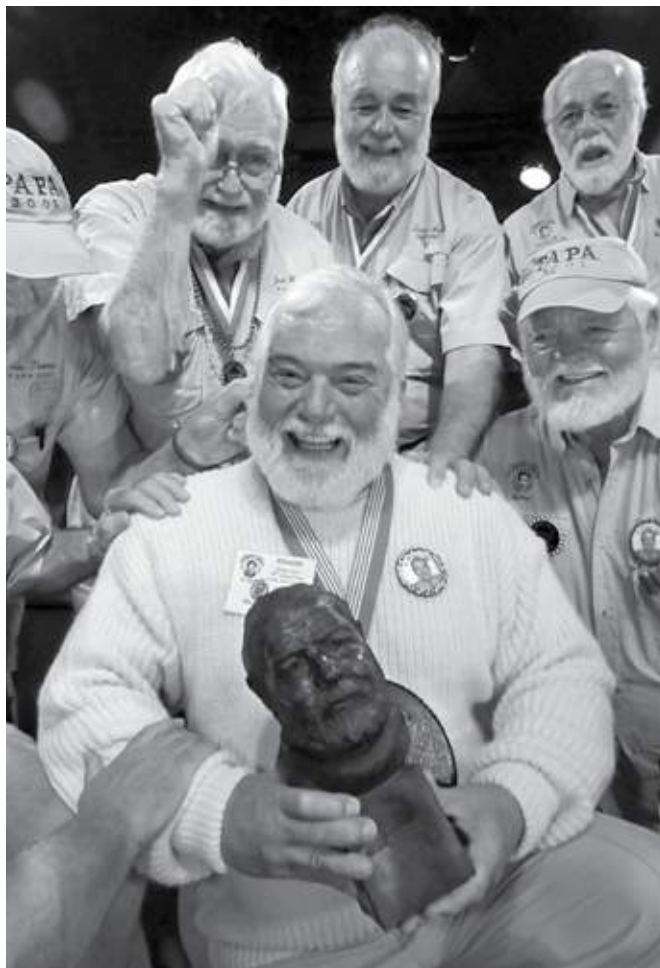
"I haven't written any books, but I'm good writing checks and text messaging," Douglas said.

Other Hemingway Days events included literary and theatrical presentations, a marlin tournament and a short story competition coordinated by author and Hemingway granddaughter Lorian Hemingway. The festival ends Sunday, July 21 was the 110th anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

Judged by a panel of former look-alike winners, 30 prospective "Papas" made Saturday night's contest finals to parade across the stage at Sloppy Joe's. Finalists included Denis Golden of Rockport, Mass., who sang a parody of "Hello, Dolly" onstage with lyrics pleading for victory.

While living in Key West during the 1930s, Hemingway wrote some of his most famous works, including "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "To Have and Have Not" and "Death in the Afternoon."

In this photo released by the Florida Keys News Bureau, David Douglas, center, beams after winning the 2009 "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike contest late Saturday, July 25, 2009, at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Fla.



BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

"Outliers," by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: \$27.99). An exploration of the background of high achievers.

"A Bright and Guilty Place," by Richard Rayner (Doubleday: \$25). The intertwined stories of an ambitious young lawyer, prime suspect in a mob murder and a police photographer paint a picture of early 20th century Los Angeles.

"Crazy for the Storm," by Norman Ollestad (Ecco: \$25.99). The son of a daredevil tells of his life on the edge and how he survived a deadly plane crash.

"Catastrophe," by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann (Harper: \$26.99). A call to prevent President Barack Obama from transforming America into a socialist state.

"The Waxman Report," by Henry Waxman with Joshua Green (Twelve: \$24.99). The congressman from Los Angeles gives insight on his 35 years in the House.

"Liberty and Tyranny," by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions: \$25). The talk-radio personality's call to revitalize the conservative vision in America.

"The Secret," by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95). Life's secrets, distilled.

"The Last Lecture," by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95). A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

"Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," by Steve Harvey (Amistad: \$23.99). The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.

"Horse Soldiers," by Doug Stanton (Scribner: \$28). A unit of Special Forces soldiers pursues the Taliban in Afghanistan after 9/11.

Fiction

"The Angel's Game," by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (Doubleday: \$26.95). A novelist in 1920s Barcelona takes a dangerous writing assignment.

"Shanghai Girls," by Lisa See (Random House: \$25). Two sisters from Shanghai encounter tragedy and heartbreak as they are sold into arranged marriages in 1930s Los Angeles.

"Black Hills," by Nora Roberts (Putnam: \$26.95). Two childhood friends return to South Dakota to find love and revisit an unsolved murder.

"The Help," by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam: \$24.95). The lives of a maid, a cook and a college graduate become intertwined while changing a Mississippi town.

"Finger Lickin' Fifteen," by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's: \$27.95). A witness enters a barbecue competition to uncover the killer of a contestant.

"Swimsuit," by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: \$27.99). A supermodel disappears from a photo shoot in Hawaii.

"The Scarecrow," by Michael Connelly (Little, Brown: \$27.99). A recently downsized reporter investigates a serial killer who uses a computer job to find victims.

"Doomsday Key," by James Rollins (William Morrow: \$27.99). Three murders reveal an ancient secret threatening humankind's existence.

"Breaking Dawn," by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$22.99). The final book in the "Twilight" saga finds Bella choosing immortality.

"Pygmy," by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday: \$24.95). Terrorists disguised as foreign-exchange students living with American families plot mass destruction.

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'G-Force' topples 'Harry Potter' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An elite squad of guinea pigs has worked its own brand of magic at the box office, taking the No. 1 spot from boy wizard Harry Potter.

The 3-D "G-Force" was the top movie at the box office this weekend, opening with \$32.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney release from producer Jerry Bruckheimer, with its mixture of live action and computer-generated animation, is a "Mission: Impossible"-style adventure. It features voiceover work from Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell, Tracy Morgan and Penelope Cruz as resourceful rodents.

Last week's No. 1 film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," came in a close second with an estimated \$30 million. That's a whopping 61-percent drop from its huge opening last

weekend of \$79.5 million.

Coming in third was another of the week's wide releases, the battle-of-the-sexes romantic comedy "The Ugly Truth," which had a \$27 million opening.

The sixth installment in the Harry Potter franchise has now made \$222 million total, which is \$14 million ahead of where part five, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," was after 12 days in theaters in 2007. And this week, "Half-Blood Prince" will start showing on 166 IMAX screens, which the last "Harry Potter" movie did from the start.

"So we're coming in with this one (in IMAX) a little bit late, but it's going to be a great addition and it'll keep our momentum going," said Dan Fellman, Warner Bros.' head of distribution.

"G-Force" triumphed in a crowded summer marketplace

with its combination of 3-D effects and the Disney and Bruckheimer brands, said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group.

"You never go into a situation where you're competing against two important movies—the second weekend of 'Harry Potter' and the opening weekend of 'The Ugly Truth'—you never go in cocky," Zoradi said.

The one-two of PG-rated movies reinforces the fact that summer is prime family movie time, said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"This summer is all about packaging and escapism," Dergarabedian said of the strong showing for "G-Force." "People were scratching their heads and dragging their kids to go see this thing. They were watching the trailers with absolute shock going, 'Is



AP

In this film publicity image released by Disney, characters, from left, Darwin, Juarez and Blaster are shown in a scene from, "G-Force."

that really happening?" But as a kid you're like, 'I gotta go see it.' This is a testament to the fact that Jerry Bruckheimer, like ("Transformers" director) Michael Bay, knows exactly what summer movie audiences want."

With \$27 million, "The Ugly Truth" performed at the high end of Sony Pictures' expectations, said head of distribution Rory Bruer.

"The chemistry between Katherine Heigl and Gerard Butler is a blast. It's really a lot of fun, everything we'd hoped it would be," Bruer said. "From sneak previews to word-of-mouth screenings we had on the movie, we knew people liked the movie."

Critics weren't so enamored, though: "The Ugly Truth" received just 15 percent positive reviews on the Rotten Tomatoes Web site.

"If I have a choice of deciding between what the audience's opinion is going to be versus the critics', I'll definitely go with the

1. "G-Force," \$32.2 million.
2. "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," \$30 million.
3. "The Ugly Truth," \$27 million.
4. "Orphan," \$12.8 million.
5. "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," \$8.2 million.
6. "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," \$8 million.
7. "The Hangover," \$6.5 million.
8. "The Proposal," \$6.4 million.
9. "Public Enemies," \$4.2 million.
10. "Bruno," \$2.7 million.

audience's every day, and they spoke loud and clear," Bruer said.

Also opening nationwide this weekend was another Warner Bros. release, the horror movie "Orphan," about a couple who adopts a little girl who's not nearly as sweet as she seems. It came in fourth place with \$12.8 million.

Expanding in its second week of limited release, the Fox Searchlight romantic comedy "500 Days of Summer" made \$1.63 million. Going from 27 screens to 85, it's grossed just

over \$3 million. The critical hit stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel in an out-of-order tale of boy-meets-girl.

On the other end of the cinematic spectrum, the dominant movie of the summer, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," is now the 10th-highest grossing film of all time with just over \$379 million. The Paramount sequel made \$8 million this weekend, pushing it past 2003's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," which made just over \$377 million.

Dergarabedian said movies like "Transformers," "Harry Potter" and the R-rated, surprise-hit comedy "The Hangover," which has now made over \$247 million, have kept this summer's revenues right in line with 2008, when "The Dark Knight" was all the rage.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Fans get first peek at 'Iron Man 2'

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The buzz for the first "Iron Man" film began at Comic-Con, director Jon Favreau said, so he thanked fans for their support by showing an exclusive clip from next summer's sequel.

"Nobody cared before you guys did," Favreau told a capacity crowd inside the San Diego Convention Center's largest assembly hall Saturday. Then he rolled the clip, which introduced the film's anticipated new characters.

It showed an eye-patch-wearing Samuel L. Jackson, who plays Nick Fury, and a redheaded Scarlett Johansson throwing down as martial-arts master Black Widow. It introduced Sam Rockwell as weapons guru Justin Hammer;

a fearsome-looking, heavily tattooed Mickey Rourke as the villain Ivan Vanko, who becomes Whiplash; and Don Cheadle as Col. James Rhodes, who becomes War Machine.

Terrence Howard played Rhodes in the first "Iron Man" film. Cheadle's character addresses the change in a few quick lines to Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.).

"It's me. I'm here. Deal with it. Let's move on," Cheadle's Rhodes says.

Fans got a quick glimpse of War Machine's super-powered, weapon-filled suit and Whiplash's first attempt at a wearable apparatus that features two electrically charged whips.

Ex-'Idol' contestant struck, killed by car in NJ

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say a 25-year-old former two-time "American Idol" contestant has been struck and killed by a car in a New Jersey shore town.

The Asbury Park Press reports that Alexis Cohen, of Allentown, Pa., was killed early

Saturday in Seaside Heights.

Deputy Chief Michael Mohel of the Ocean County Prosecutors Office says an autopsy indicated she suffered chest, head and abdominal injuries. Mohel says investigators are seeking more information about the collision.

Cohen auditioned in Philadelphia for the popular Fox singing competition in August 2007, and the episode was aired in January 2008. She tried out again during the show's eighth season.

A video of her angry rant after being rejected by judges went viral on the Internet.

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NOW SHOWING



G-Force

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 4:15 7:30

Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi
 Action, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of guinea pigs trained by the government to work in espionage, armed with the latest high-tech spy equipment, soon discover that the fate of the world is in their paws. Tapped for the G-Force are guinea pigs Darwin the squad leader determined to succeed at all costs; Blaster, an outrageous weapons expert with tons of attitude and a love for all things extreme; and Juarez a sexy martial arts pro; plus the literal fly-on-the-wall reconnaissance expert, Mooch, and a star-nosed mole, Speckles, the computer and information specialist.



Orphan

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Peter Sarsgaard, Isabelle Fuhrman
 Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

The tragic loss of their unborn child has devastated Kate and John, taking a toll on both their marriage and Kate's fragile psyche as she is plagued by nightmares and haunted by demons from her past. Struggling to regain some semblance of normalcy in their lives, the couple decides to adopt a child. At the local orphanage, both John and Kate find themselves strangely drawn to a young girl named Esther. Almost as soon as they welcome Esther into their home, however, an alarming series of events begins to unfold, leading Kate to believe that there's something wrong with Esther—this seemingly angelic little girl is not what she appears to be.



Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:10 7:15 10:10
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:10 7:15

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13

Synopsis

Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. Together they work to find the key to unlock Voldemort's defenses and, to this end, Dumbledore recruits his old friend and colleague, the well-connected and unsuspecting bon vivant Professor Horace Slughorn, whom he believes holds crucial information.



Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah
 Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
 Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



My Sister's Keeper

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
 Family Drama • Rated PG-13



The Proposal

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:40
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:05 7:10

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
 Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Actress who got rights for Gurkhas visits Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Hundreds of Gurkha war veterans and their families swarmed Katmandu airport Sunday to welcome British actress Joanna Lumley, who helped secure their right to settle in the United Kingdom.

Lumley, 63, was mobbed as she arrived in this Himalayan nation, home to the storied Nepalese soldiers who have fought for the British army for nearly 200 years.

"My friends of Nepal, I am your family coming to Nepal for the first time. I want to thank you so much. I want to say in the time-honored cry, 'Ayo Gurkhal!' Lumley told the crowd from the top of an SUV, reciting the soldiers' traditional battle cry.

In May, the British government gave the thousands of Gurkhas the automatic right to settle in Britain. Lumley—who played Patsy, a chain-smoking magazine editor who slept her way to the top in the TV comedy series "Absolutely Fabulous"—brought her fame to bear on the issue and became the face of their campaign. She said she was drawn to the cause because



British actress Joanna Lumley is greeted by Gurkha war veterans, their families and supporters as she arrives at the airport in Katmandu, Nepal, Sunday, July 26, 2009.

her father fought alongside Gurkha soldiers in World War II.

Since 2004, Britain has allowed only those Gurkhas who retired after July 1, 1997, to settle there. It argued that those who retired before 1997—when the Gurkha base was in Hong

Kong—had weak links with Britain and that allowing in tens of thousands of veterans and their families would cost taxpayers billions.

The crowd in Katmandu, who waited for hours to see her, offered her flowers and silk

scarves. A few signs read "Ayo goddess Joanna," or "Here comes goddess Joanna."

The Gurkhas have served Britain with distinction since 1815, but they have always been paid much less than their British colleagues.

Timberlake christens eco-friendly golf course

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (AP)—Justin Timberlake celebrated the opening of his renovated, environmentally friendly golf course in style on the 10th tee—by smacking his drive 291 yards.

The singer and actor smiled Saturday after the tee-off, saying "nobody's happier about this course" than he is.

Timberlake was the first to play a round at his Mirimichi golf course near Memphis, Tenn., after he spent \$16 million renovating the course to make it more eco-friendly.

Timberlake drew a crowd of about 50 onlookers after starting an early round of 18 holes at 7:30 a.m.

He played Saturday with his mother, stepfather and an old family friend from Tennessee.

The Memphis native got the idea to buy the course from his dad back in 2007.



This image provided by Picture Group shows Justin Timberlake at the opening of the Mirimichi Golf Course, which he founded, on Friday July 24, 2009, in Memphis, Tenn.

Study: HBO leads on TV in showing gay characters

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO scored highest among 15 networks for its representation of gay characters last season, according to a report released Monday.

In its third annual Network Responsibility Index, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation found that of HBO's 14 original prime-time series, 10 included content reflecting the lives of gay, bisexual and transgender people. That totaled 42 percent of the network's programming hours, in series such as "True Blood," "Entourage"

and "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency."

By contrast, on NBC and CBS only 8 percent and 5 percent, respectively, of prime-time hours included them, the report said.

For the report, GLAAD reviewed all prime-time programming - totaling 4,901 hours - for inclusion of such characters or issues on the five major networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and the CW) from June 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009. The study also examined all original prime-time pro-

gramming - 1,213 hours - on 10 prominent cable networks. The programming included dramas, comedies, unscripted fare and newsmagazines.

Cable's Showtime ranked second, with 26 percent of its programming hours featuring gay characters or themes. Series included "The L Word," "Weeds" and "The United States of Tara," a new comedy about a family whose teenage son is gay.

ABC got the highest ranking of the five broadcast networks,

with 24 percent. It was the second year in a row that ABC led the broadcasters.

Among ABC series, the report cited newlyweds Kevin and Scotty on "Brothers & Sisters," the engagement of Andrew to Dr. Alex Cominis on "Desperate Housewives" and bisexual Dr. Callie Torres on "Grey's Anatomy."

The CW logged 20 percent, and the Fox network 11 percent, the report said.

Among the sampling of cable networks evaluated, TNT showed the largest growth, jumping to 19 percent last season from 1 percent the year before.

Woman discovers the truth in man's texts to ex-wife

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: "Ralph" and I have been married two years. Two nights ago we had an argument, and he got mad and left. He was gone three hours. When he returned he screamed at me for what seemed like an hour. Finally, he went to bed.

I looked through his phone and found several text messages to his ex-wife. One said he still loves her. So I went through his e-mail and found more correspondence. When I woke Ralph up and confronted him, the first thing out of his mouth was her name.

They have an 18-year-old daughter and have been divorced for 13 years. To top it off, she's married and pregnant.

Ralph swears he doesn't know why he was texting her, that he doesn't love her and that the e-mails were about a job.

Abby, I thought we had a happy marriage. I'm crushed, and my whole world is falling apart. My husband obviously has feelings for his first wife (I'm No. 3) and is thinking about her. He swears over and over that I'm the love of his life, and he will spend the rest of his life proving it to me. Is it time to throw in the towel?

HEARTBROKEN IN MONTANA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: If you hadn't already smelled a rat, you wouldn't have checked his cell phone history and computer. The text messages you discovered are explicit proof that your husband isn't being honest with you.

For many wives this would be the time to cut their losses. But if you love him and are willing to risk giving him one more chance, the two of you need to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist. You have little to lose by giving it a try, and it's possible that your husband really is contrite—but keep your eyes wide open.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a non-drinker. I don't like the taste of alcohol, and I prefer to remain sober.

Why is such a big deal made about alcohol and who's drinking? I attended a friend's birthday luncheon, and she apologized to the group for NOT drinking, saying she'd had enough partying the night before. Another time I went to a bar with a boyfriend to see a band perform. His friends -- all of them "buzzed," by the way—asked me repeatedly why I wasn't drinking. This isn't the only time my choice to abstain has been questioned and scrutinized.

To me it makes no difference whether it's vodka or water in a glass. In a restaurant that served meat, you wouldn't question the food choices of a vegetarian, would you? Drinkers should mind their own (beverage) business. Their concern ought only to be whether I am social, not whether I'm imbibing or not. Thanks, Abby, for letting me vent.

SOBER IN SCOTTSDALE

DEAR SOBER: When a non-drinker turns down alcohol, I suspect it makes the drinkers either curious or slightly uncomfortable because they imagine, in their "relaxed" state, that they are being examined—and possibly judged—by someone who is stone cold sober. As to the birthday girl who felt she had to offer an apology or explanation for not drinking, she may have done it out of concern that turning down the alcohol might make the guests feel less inclined to order it themselves.

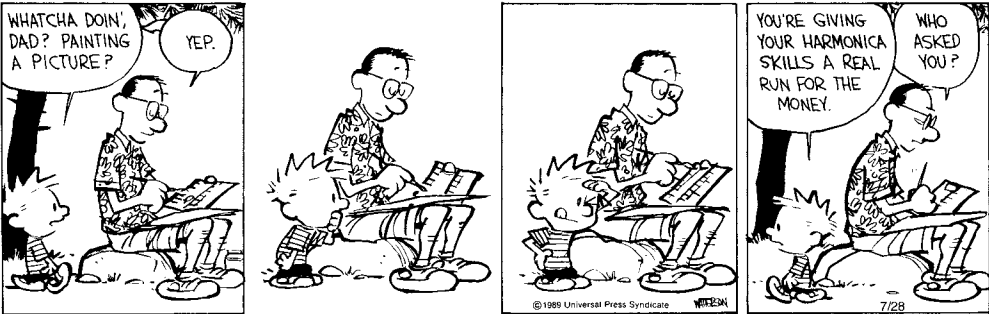
Readers, there's usually a good reason why a person doesn't drink. It can range from being on a medication where it's contraindicated, a problem metabolizing it or an addiction. So don't question non-drinkers about their choice, and don't push the person to have "just one." You've heard of BYOB? Well, MYOB.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

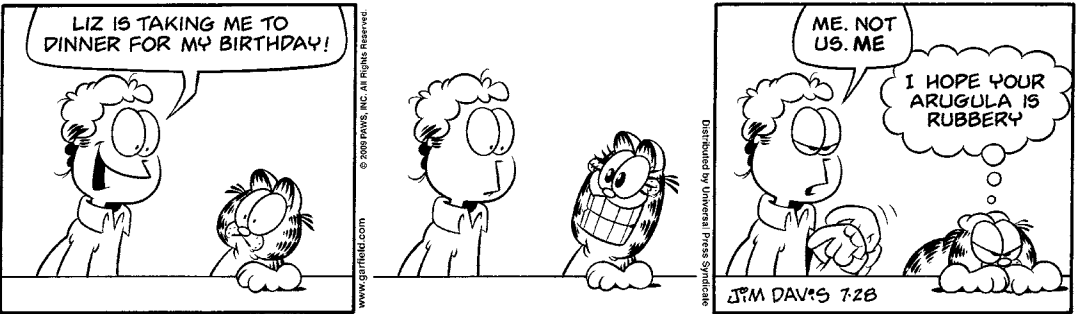
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Recipe meas.

5 Salt Lake tribe

8 Sound of longing

12 Back

13 Gun toters' org.

14 Radius neighbor

15 Plankton component

16 Puns and such

18 Hefner magazine

20 Takes a break

21 A billion years

22 Scratch

23 Chic again

26 *NSYNC or Menudo

30 Raw rock

31 Chip accessory

32 Modern prefix

33 Exquisitely neat

36 Trust

38 Hearty brew

DOWN

3 Unruly bunch

40 Extremist

43 Grandstand

47 Driver's protector

49 Hodgenodge

50 Wan

51 "Gosh!"

52 Discourteous

53 Raced

54 Hooter

55 Evindenced a wound

1 Snare

2 Telephone inventor

3 Long story

4 Orison

5 Yet to be achieved

6 Helen's home

7 Listener

8 Excellent

9 Troubles

10 Summer-time pest

11 Robert of "Airplane!"

17 Wagon

19 Ghost's call

22 Swab the decks

23 Filch from

24 Historic time

25 Sawbuck

26 Jazz

27 Black-bird

28 Butterfly catcher

29 Homer's interjection

31 Buck's mate

34 Moved quickly

35 Spill the beans

36 Hen-house threat

37 Soak up

39 Roadside stopover

40 Letter delivery grp.

41 Bound

42 Yarn

43 Huffed and puffed

44 Hebrew month

45 Staffer

46 Pigeon

48 Id counter-part

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	W	A	N	S	L	Y	E	S	S	E
O	A	H	U	Y	E	A	S	A	U	L
B	L	O	C	M	O	N	O	C	L	E
S	K	Y	L	A	B	K	A	R	A	T
E	R	O	S	R	O	D				
C	U	T	I	C	L	E	S	W	O	R
A	S	A	S	I	T	A	R	I	O	N
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T	E	L	P	E	S	O				
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M	A	N	A	C	L	E	S	P	L	E
A	P	E	S	O	V	A	E	L	A	N
N	O	D	E	M	E	W	R	A	M	S

Yesterday's answer 7-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Berkley, 37; Sally Struthers, 61; Jim Davis, 64; Phil Proctor, 69

Happy Birthday: The little things will get you the most mileage and help you win the respect and admiration of the people who count in your life. You can learn something new that will guide you to a more affluent lifestyle. Don't let someone who is attracted to you for the wrong reasons cost you financially or emotionally. Stay in control. Your numbers are 9, 11, 15, 18, 28, 37, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do something to make a difference to a group or a cause you believe in. Your support will bring back all sorts of favorable input, help and good will. Deal with any disagreement you have so it doesn't linger on. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put time and effort into developing something that can help you get ahead financially. Someone you are close to will add to your responsibilities. You will have to juggle your time carefully. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have excess energy coupled with added discipline to take care of any task or responsibility that comes your way. Your competitive edge will put anyone trying to outmaneuver you in his or her place. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be trying to do something that is a hard sell but it's the baby steps you take that will lead people to follow, support and help. You may feel stretched or under pressure but

stick to your schedule and everything will get done on time. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have to spread yourself a little thinner in order to take care of pressing matters concerning children or elders. You'll gain insight by listening to complaints and utilizing your experience to fix what isn't running smoothly. Don't give in to a bully. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Before doing something out of the ordinary that might have financial consequences, talk to someone experienced in such matters. You have a great idea but may not really know what to do with it. Don't let flattery cause you to make a costly mistake. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Concentrate on getting ahead professionally. Avoid letting personal troubles take over, standing in the way of your progress. You need to clear the way if you want to make the most of a good thing. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't make too many plans or you will fall short of your goals. Travel plans may backfire if you let someone else make your arrangements. A couple of changes at home and you will be in someone's good graces. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Financial planning will put you in a better position to network and offer proposals. A service that you can provide can be adapted to these economic times and still make a profit. Travel plans may be delayed. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may have to appease someone who has been patiently waiting for you to take a break. Please someone you care about by making special plans that will make up for lost time. Share your success. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional upset will plague you. Avoid overreacting or getting worked up over nothing. Someone you thought you knew well will let you down. Additional responsibilities can be expected. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Follow your heart if you want to get ahead. Nothing is too great to accomplish if you are willing to put in the time and effort. A love relationship may take a drastic turn. Before letting this dilemma consume you, make sure it's worth it. *****

Birthday Baby: You are creative and curious. You have a desire to be a leader and a need to prove your worth. You are competitive, challenging and strong-willed.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1					2		6	
			8		9	2		3
		4			5		1	
	1				4	8	9	7
4	2	7	6				3	
	8		5		6			
3		5	4		1			
	4		9					1

Difficulty Level ★★

7/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	7	1	3	9	2	5	8
5	2	9	4	8	6	1	3	7
8	3	1	7	5	2	4	6	9
1	6	2	8	4	7	5	9	3
9	8	5	3	6	1	7	4	2
3	7	4	2	9	5	8	1	6
2	1	6	9	7	4	3	8	5
4	9	8	5	2	3	6	7	1
7	5	3	6	1	8	9	2	4

Difficulty Level ★

7/27

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE ROSETTA STONE

Solution: 10 letters

A	N	T	N	E	M	G	A	R	F	R	E	N	C	H
T	R	A	N	S	L	A	T	I	O	N	I	M	D	D
S	U	C	E	E	E	A	P	S	D	L	L	U	I	C
I	L	E	H	N	I	H	N	E	E	A	C	S	C	L
G	E	R	O	A	A	C	V	G	Y	L	C	E	I	E
O	R	T	E	R	E	R	N	O	U	O	P	U	A	O
L	S	V	O	P	A	O	R	A	V	A	R	M	M	P
O	O	S	R	C	L	E	L	E	M	Y	G	T	E	A
L	S	P	T	A	H	I	R	O	T	E	I	E	L	T
I	T	C	B	P	S	E	C	T	G	I	S	X	O	R
H	E	A	I	C	D	H	O	A	L	I	D	T	T	A
P	L	C	R	T	S	E	I	M	R	A	S	E	P	M
S	E	I	A	T	P	E	K	D	L	I	S	T	M	S
D	P	C	A	R	T	O	U	C	H	E	S	A	N	E
T	D	E	M	O	T	I	C	T	P	Y	G	E	B	S

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Ancient, Archaeologist, Armies, Basalt, Cartouches, Carved, Cleopatra, Coptic, Decipher, Demotic, Discovered, Egypt, Fragment, French, Kept, Language, List, Love, Mediterranean, Museum, Names, Nile, Pharos, Philologist, Ptolemaic, Ramses, Rashid, Replica, Royal, Ruler, Script, Slab, Stele, Stone, Temples, Text, Trace, Translation

Yesterday's Answer: Examining

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In this May 22, 2009, file photo, Michael Vick arrives at federal court surrounded by the media for a meeting with his parole officer in Norfolk, Va.

Jason Dufner leads rain-delayed Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Jason Dufner played six holes in 1 under Sunday to top the Canadian Open leaderboard before play was washed out because of the latest round of heavy rain and lightning, forcing the tournament to at least a fifth day.

"Instead of reading the grain, you have to read the current out there," said Mike Weir, the Canadian star who had a hole-in-one and was caught up in a confusing rules situation involving his second shot on the 18th hole Saturday.

Dufner, the second-round leader after rounds of 68 and 63 on the saturated Glen Abbey course, had a one-stroke lead over Anthony Kim and Jerry Kelly. Kim was 4 under after nine holes in the third round, and Kelly was 1 under through six.

"None of the players can control what's going on," Dufner said. "I think everybody wants to get out there and play and compete and try to win this golf tournament."

The players are scheduled to resume play at 7:30 a.m. Monday, the first time the tournament has gone past the weekend since 1988. PGA Tour officials still hope to complete four rounds in the event drenched by about 5 inches of rain in four days.

Play began Sunday morning in sunny conditions, but lightning forced the players off the course at 10:15 a.m. After another round of lightning and heavy rain and hours trying to get the layout in shape to resume, play was called for the day at 4:25 p.m.

"We've had some good times in the locker room," Kelly said. "I get up in the kitchen a lot, which I love. Have a good time with all those guys in the kitchen."

"This way you get to know a lot of the players, too. It's time that you're really not grouped together just passing each other, saying hello or eating. You're actually hanging out for hour upon hour. So it's actually a pretty

good time in that respect. But it's tough on the golf. It's tough stopping and starting."

Scott Verplank was two strokes back at 12 under along with Retief Goosen, Bob Estes, Peter Tomasulo and Michael Letzig. Verplank, the 2001 winner at Royal Montreal, tied for second behind Ken Green in the 1988 Monday finish at Glen Abbey.

Weir, trying to become the first Canadian winner since Pat Fletcher in 1954, was 9 under - including a penalty stroke for the infraction at the end of his round Saturday - with seven holes left in the third round.

Weir's ball moved before he played the shot, but he was unsure whether he had addressed

the ball or caused it to move. After calling for a ruling, he replaced the ball in

its original location and took a one-stroke penalty.

Before Weir signed his scorecard, the penalty stroke was rescinded after he and the rules committee reviewed video and determined it was inconclusive whether he caused the ball to move. On Sunday, additional video was reviewed, and Weir again assessed himself a one-stroke penalty for causing the ball to move, even though it was still inconclusive whether he addressed the ball.

"Even though I don't think I did, I guess there's that gray-area possibility I could have," Weir said. "So with that, I didn't feel comfortable myself not taking it."

Weir holed a 4-iron shot on the 200-yard fourth hole. The ace was the seventh of the week, the most since the tour began keeping extensive records in 1971. There were five in the 2004 John Deere Classic.

Did he buy a round of drinks for the guys in the locker room?

"I was told that today by a lot of players," Weir said. "So OK. It's good drinking weather right now."

Owens wants Vick reinstated



PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP)—Terrell Owens wants Michael Vick to be reinstated immediately by the NFL, and said any extension of the quarterback's suspension would be similar to "kicking a dead horse."

Speaking after the Buffalo Bills training camp practice Sunday morning, the star receiver referred to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell's handling of Vick's status as "unfair." Owens also lobbied to have more of the league's high-profile players voicing their opinion in support of Vick and asked the NFL Players Association to become more involved.

"I think he's done the time for what he's done. I don't think it's really fair for him to be suspended four more games," Owens said, referring to reports that the NFL is considering to further punish Vick. "It's almost like kicking a dead horse in the ground. ... The guy's already suffered so much. And to add a four-game suspension on a two-year prison

sentence, that's ridiculous."

Vick met with Goodell this week but has yet to learn when he will be allowed to resume his NFL career. The former Falcons star was suspended indefinitely in August 2007 after he admitted bankrolling a dogfighting operation.

Vick has served a 23-month federal sentence and was freed from home confinement on July 20. He must still serve three years' probation.

Owens said Vick deserves a second chance.

"Why shouldn't he? I mean, there's a lot more guys around the league that have done far more worst things than that and gotten second chances," Owens said.

Owens said he would welcome Vick as a teammate.

"Michael Vick is a guy that really hasn't any character issues besides what he got a prison sentence for, so why not?" he said.

Bills safety George Wilson, the

team's NFLPA representative, agreed with Owens.

"How do you bring a man out of suspension and then suspend him again? I mean, he's paid his debt," Wilson said. "I think you just continue to hold him down by bringing him back and then suspend him."

Wilson said he intends to discuss Vick's status with Owens and other teammates to determine whether to bring the Bills players' position to the union.

"We'll see where it goes, but I think Terrell is right in stating his position," Wilson said. "This is an instance where perhaps our players association needs to try to get involved."

The union's position has been that it will support Vick on a personal level until Goodell decides how to proceed. NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith met with Vick this past week, and intends to discuss the player's status with Goodell.

The Bills have declined comment on discussing Vick.

Blazers sign free agent G Andre Miller



PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers signed veteran free agent guard Andre Miller to a three-year, \$21 million deal on Friday.

Miller, whose NBA career has spanned 10 seasons with four teams, averaged 16.3 points and 6.5 assists as a starter for the Philadelphia 76ers last season.

"I'm just looking forward to the challenge, you know?" Miller said in a conference call. "I know Portland wants to accomplish a lot of things, and I want to add to that."

Miller joins point guards Steve Blake and Jerryd Bayless with the Blazers, the second-youngest team in the NBA last season. Portland won 54 games and advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 2003.

Miller has played an NBA-high 530 straight games. He has missed just three in his career.

The 33-year-old Miller went to the Sixers in 2006 in a midseason trade with the Denver Nuggets that involved Allen Iverson. He did not miss a game for Philadelphia.

Miller met with Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard and coach Nate McMillan at a restaurant in Las Vegas earlier this week.

Pritchard said he was impressed with how much Miller know about the Blazers offense.

"Andre was terrific. He knew our team. He knew how he could help our team. He seemed like a coach," Pritchard said.

Miller was the eighth overall pick in the 1999 draft out of Utah by the Cleveland Cavaliers. Over his career, he has averaged 14.6 points, 4.2 rebounds and 7.4 assists in 815 games, 768 starts. He has 174 career double-doubles.

The Sixers went 41-41 last season and were knocked out of the playoffs in six games for the second straight year. The team reportedly offered Miller a one-year deal for about \$6 million.

"Did I think it was a fair offer?" he asked. "No, I didn't."

Miller confirmed his deal with the Blazers was for two years with a team option on a third.

NBA BRIEFS

Raptors expect to sign Nesterovic

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Toronto Raptors expect to sign free agent center Rashaun Nesterovic. Nesterovic's agent, Bill Duffy, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Saturday that the former Indiana Pacer has agreed in principle to a one-year, \$2 million deal. The agreement first was reported in the Toronto Star. The 7-footer from Slovenia started 19 games for the Pacers last season and averaged 6.8 points and 3.4 rebounds while shooting 51 percent from the field. He had played in Toronto before going to Indiana. He started 111 games in two seasons with the Raptors. The 11-year veteran has career averages of 7.0 points and 5.3 rebounds. The Raptors already had signed former Pacers point guard Jarrett Jack.

Spurs sign center Theo Ratliff

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs have signed center Theo Ratliff. Terms of the deal announced Saturday were not disclosed. The 6-foot-10 Ratliff spent last season with the Philadelphia 76ers, averaging 1.9 points, 2.6 rebounds and 1.02 blocks in 12.6 minutes while appearing in 46 games. Ratliff has also played for Detroit, Atlanta, Portland, Boston and Minnesota during 14 NBA seasons. Ratliff was a second-

team selection to two NBA All-Defensive teams (1998-99, 2003-04), and is one of seven players in NBA history to lead the league in blocks in at least three seasons (2000-01, 2002-03 and 2003-04). He ranks 18th all-time in total blocks (1,902) and is fifth among active players.

Jamario Moon heading to Cavaliers

MIAMI (AP)—Restricted free-agent forward Jamario Moon is joining the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Miami Heat said Friday they had decided not to match the offer sheet Moon signed with Cleveland. Moon finished last season with Miami. The Cavaliers had roughly \$3.2 million of its midlevel exception to sign the 6-foot-8 Moon. "We declined to match because we want to stay true to our plan of not adding salary to our 2010 cap, and matching it would have reduced our flexibility," Heat president Pat Riley said in a statement. "Michael Beasley will be getting significant minutes at both forward positions, and this opens up more opportunities for him to become the player we all expect him to be." Beasley was the second overall pick in the 2008 draft. Moon joins a Cavaliers team that has been overhauled this offseason with the additions of All-Star center Shaquille O'Neal and free agent Anthony Parker.

Shooting guard Willie Green is the only other true guard on the roster, leaving the Sixers thin in the backcourt.

The Trail Blazers were \$7.7 million under the salary cap after the league set it at \$57.7 million for next season. The cap is determined by a percentage of league revenue from the previous season.

Portland had been unsuccessful in the market this summer. First, they went after free agent forward Hedo Turkoglu, who pulled out of talks at the last minute and instead went to the Toronto Raptors. The Blazers also made a move on Utah forward Paul Millsap, a restricted free agent, but the Jazz matched Portland's offer.

Twins rookie Swarzak ends Angels' 8-game streak

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Justin Morneau hit two homers and rookie Anthony Swarzak shut down a potent lineup by pitching into the seventh inning as the Minnesota Twins ended the Los Angeles Angels' eight-game winning streak with a 10-1 victory in the American League on Sunday.

Denard Span homered and drove in a season-high four runs, and even light-hitting Nick Punto added a season-best three RBIs as the Twins ended a four-game losing streak.

Swarzak (3-3) allowed just four hits and three walks in his eighth career start, throwing 121 pitches against one of the majors' most productive offenses.

Kendry Morales' fourth-inning homer was the first hit for Los Angeles, which scored 62 runs during its streak before sputtering on a sweltering day in Orange County.

Morneau hit a two-run homer in the first inning and a solo shot in the seventh as the Twins battered Los Angeles starter Ervin Santana (3-6) for six runs.

Rangers 7, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Dustin Nippert allowed one hit in a stellar job of relief pitching as Texas scored seven times off the Kansas City bullpen.

Nippert was forced into action when Rangers starter Kevin Millwood left after two innings with tightness in his left gluteus. He gave up a run in the seventh on Alex Gordon's single, the only hit he allowed. Nippert (3-0) walked two, hit a batter and struck out one in 4 2-3 innings.

Ron Mahay (1-1), the first of four relievers, faced two batters and gave up two hits to take the loss for the Royals. They've lost 11 of 12 overall.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 2

At Boston, Nick Markakis homered and drove in three runs off a struggling John Smoltz as Baltimore snapped an 11-game losing streak at Boston's Fenway Park.

Markakis hit a sacrifice fly in the first inning, an RBI double in the third and a solo homer in the fifth that gave the Orioles a 6-0 lead.

David Hernandez (3-2) allowed one run in seven innings, helping Baltimore to its first win in Boston since July 11, 2008, and its third win in its last 30 games against AL East opponents.

The 24-year-old rookie outpitched 21-year veteran Smoltz (1-4), whose comeback from offseason shoulder surgery has been rocky. He gave up six earned runs in five innings.

Yankees 7, Athletics 5

At New York, Derek Jeter hit a go-ahead single and Mariano Rivera earned a four-out save as New York capped a stellar homestand in which they grabbed the AL East.

Robinson Cano had an early three-run double and the Yankees got a strong effort from the bullpen, as they wrapped up a 9-1 start to the second half. After winning for the 22nd time in 28 games, the Yankees hit the road for 19 of their next 26.

Phil Hughes provided more spotless relief, Phil Coke (2-3) got the win even though he gave up a go-ahead homer to Mark Ellis, and Brian Bruney got the ball to Rivera to close out the game.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 1

At Toronto, Scott Rolen hit a three-run homer as Toronto handed Tampa Bay rookie Jeff Niemann his first loss in his last six decisions.

Blue Jays rookie Brett Cecil got the win, allowing one run and four hits in seven innings. Cecil (4-1) walked three and struck out seven. Brandon League pitched the eighth and Jason Frasor finished as the Blue Jays won for just the second time in nine games against the Rays.

One day after blowing an eight-run lead and losing 10-9 in 12 innings, Toronto snapped a three-game losing streak. The Blue Jays have lost seven of their past eight series.

Niemann (9-5) allowed five runs and nine hits in 6 2-3 innings to lose for the first time since May 28 at Cleveland. He walked one and struck out six.

Indians 12, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Grady Sizemore hit the 20th leadoff homer of his career and Jhonny Peralta hit his second career grand slam as Cleveland hit four long balls to finish a three-game sweep.

The Mariners entered the weekend with optimism about their chances in both the AL West and wild-card races, but it beneath the Indians' offensive onslaught.

Cliff Lee (7-9) gave up a pair of first-inning runs on Franklin Gutierrez's two-out single before retiring the next 13 straight. The reigning AL Cy Young

winner finished seven strong innings, giving up just six hits and two runs. He struck out four and walked none.

Jason Vargas (3-4) was recalled from Triple-A Tacoma to make Sunday's start, his first with the Mariners since July 8. He scraped through four innings giving up just two runs, before failing to record an out in a six-run fifth.

White Sox 5, Tigers 1

At Detroit, Paul Konerko hit a two-run homer in Chicago's four-run first, Gordon Beckham added a solo home run the next inning as Chicago coasted and avoided a sweep.

Clayton Richard (4-3) allowed only a run on five hits over eight innings to help the White Sox salvage a four-game series that started with them tied atop the AL Central with Detroit. The Tigers lead Chicago by two games and the Minnesota Twins by four.

Rick Porcello (9-7) gave up five runs and five hits over 5 1-3 innings. The rookie has allowed 19 earned runs in his last four starts after giving up 16 earned runs in the previous 10 outings.

Phillies 9, Cardinals 2

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley, Ryan Howard, Jimmy Rollins and Raul Ibanez all hit two-run home runs to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Joe Blanton (7-4) had another effective outing, allowing two runs and he struck out six over eight innings. Blanton has allowed two runs or less and pitched at least seven innings in five of his last six starts for the NL East leaders.

Howard had three RBIs to lift the Phillies to their 17th win in 20 games.

Mark DeRosa hit a solo homer for the Cardinals, who dropped two of three in a matchup of division leaders.

Cubs 5, Reds 2

At Chicago, Rich Harden pitched six stellar innings to win a day game at Wrigley Field for the first time since last August as Chicago moved into first place with a victory over Cincinnati.

The Cubs have won 10 of their last 13 games to move a half-game ahead of St. Louis in the NL Central, their

and won his second straight start after losing the previous four.

Luis Castillo, Jeff Francoeur and David Wright drove in two runs apiece for the Mets, who had at least 12 hits for the third straight game. New York beat Houston 10-3 on Saturday after scoring fewer than five runs in 15 of its previous 20 games.

Nationals 3, Padres 2, 10 innings

At Washington, Austin Kearns drove in the winning run with a two-out, 10th-inning single as Washington beat San Diego.

Nyer Morgan, held out of the starting lineup with a tight left hamstring before entering the game as a pinch hitter in the eighth, led off the decisive rally with a bunt single down the third base line off Greg Burke (2-3).

Willie Harris sacrificed Morgan, Nick Johnson was intentionally walked and Ryan Zimmerman flew out. Kearns then shot a single into the gap in right-center.

Joe Beimel (1-5) got the final two outs of the 10th for the victory. Josh Willingham also homered for Washington, which finished its first homestand under interim manager Jim Riggleman with a 4-7 record.

Rockies 4, Giants 2

At Denver, Aaron Cook pitched seven sharp innings to win his seventh straight decision and Seth Smith scored two runs, leading Colorado to a win over San Francisco.

Cook (10-3) had his trademark sinker working all afternoon, getting the Giants to hit into 16 groundouts. He allowed nine hits and struck out two. Cook hasn't lost since June 1 at Houston.

Franklin Morales pitched a perfect eighth and Huston Street retired the Giants in order in the ninth for his 25th save in 26 chances.

By taking two of three in the series, the Rockies increased their NL wild-card lead to two games over the Giants.

Diamondbacks 9, Pirates 0

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds and Gerardo Parra each hit two-run homers and Parra finished with four RBIs as Arizona made it easy for right-hander Max Scherzer in a victory over Pittsburgh.

Reynolds' homer in the third inning, his 26th of the season, gave Arizona a 4-0 lead, and Parra's fifth homer of the season capped the scoring with two outs in the eighth. He finished a triple short of the cycle.

Arizona had eight extra-base hits, including a double and a triple by short-stop Stephen Drew, who extended his hitting streak to eight games. The Diamondbacks had 25 extra-base in winning three out of four during the series.

Marlins 8, Dodgers 6

At Los Angeles, Dan Uggla homered and NL batting leader Hanley Ramirez drove in three runs, leading Florida to a victory over Los Angeles and helping Florida win its third straight series at Chavez Ravine.

Chris Volstad (8-9) allowed four runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings. The 22-year-old right-hander was helped by three double plays, one of them in the first when Orlando Hudson took off from first base on Andre Ethier's long drive to center fielder Cody Ross and couldn't get back in time after having to retouch second.

Ramirez was 2 for 4, raising his career average at Dodger Stadium to .344. He's hitting .348 overall this season and .427 with runners in scoring position—second in the majors. Last season, the two-time All-Star shortstop had a .239 average in that department.



AP

Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Anthony Swarzak delivers against the Los Angeles Angels during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 26, 2009, in Anaheim, Calif.

first appearance in the top spot since April 21.

The Reds wrapped up an 0-6 road trip, getting outscored 43-20 in their first winless multi-series trip in five years. After laboring through three innings, Cincinnati starter Micah Owings (6-11) was pulled with what the team called a "tight right shoulder."

Mets 8, Astros 3

At Houston, Livan Hernandez struck out a season-high seven batters after a rough start as New York put together another well-balanced offensive performance in a win over Houston.

Hernandez (7-5) allowed only four singles after the Astros built a 3-0 lead in the first inning. He threw 107 pitches in seven innings

Braves 10, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Casey Kotchman hit a three-run homer and Nate McLouth made a pair of great catches in center when starter Derek Lowe began to tire, lifting the surging Atlanta to a win over Milwaukee.

Kotchman's deep drive to right field off Braden Looper in the sixth was the difference for Atlanta, which has won eight of 11 since the All-Star break.

Brian McCann, who went 3 for 4, added a solo homer in the seventh and Kelly Johnson hit a two-run shot in the ninth as the Brewers' bullpen imploded for five runs, including two more in the eighth on a dropped fly by center fielder Jody Gerut and a bases loaded walk by Mike Burns.

CONTADOR

From Page 28

the 2004 Vuelta a Asturias race, went to hospital and learned he had a congenital cerebral vascular disorder, cavernoma. Eight months after the surgery, he won the fifth stage of the 2005 Tour Down Under. Today the only reminder of that scare is a large scar running down the side of his head.

With Contador’s victory Sunday, the Tour has been won by a Spaniard for four straight years—Oscar Pereiro in 2006, Contador and Carlos Sastre last year.

Despite the tension, Contador said he was more at ease in this year’s Tour than in 2007.

Four days from that finish, then race leader Michael Rasmussen of Denmark was sent home for lying about his whereabouts during pre-Tour doping controls.

For the first time since 2000, the Tour got through three

weeks with no positive doping cases. But the leader of France’s anti-doping agency says not all results are in, and more tests still could be carried out in the weeks, months or even years to come.

Contador, who had to sit out last year because Astana was banned because of previous doping scandals, finished in 85 hours, 48 minutes, 35 seconds. The race looped from Monaco, across the Mediterranean rim into Spain, up the Pyrenees, diagonally across central and northeastern France to the Alps, and then down to Saturday’s race climax on the dreaded Mont Ventoux in southeast France before the Paris finish.

Schleck was 4:11 seconds behind. Armstrong was 5:24 back.

After three straight Tours decided by less than a minute between first and second place, Contador’s margin of victory was the largest since Armstrong collected his last title in 2005. And Armstrong was the second-oldest rider to

reach the Tour podium. Raymond Poulidor of France was 40 he placed third in 1976.

The 24-year-old Schleck won the white jersey awarded to the Tour’s best young rider. Franco Pellizotti of Italy picked up the polka-dot jersey given to the race’s King of the Mountains. And Thor Hushovd of Norway beat the 24-year-old Briton rider Mark Cavendish for the green jersey given to the Tour’s best Tour sprinter.

Cavendish collected his sixth stage win of this year’s Tour in a sprint after the 101.9-mile course ride from Montereau-Fault-Yonne to the Champs-Elysees to become the first rider to win six Tour stages in a sprint.

He made it look easy, winning by several bike lengths in the last mad dash, trailed in second by his own lead-out man on the Columbia team, Mark Renshaw. Tyler Farrar of the United States was third.

“For sure, winning on the

Champs-Elysees is a dream for every single sprinter—to see the Arc de Triomphe in the distance,” Cavendish said.

“I can’t go home from this Tour being disappointed.”

Neither did Contador, who’s already trying to figure out how to win a third Tour.

Armstrong’s future is set. He’ll lead a new squad sponsored by RadioShack.

Contador’s plans, however, are uncertain. Astana likely will welcome back Alexandre Vinokourov, its fallen former star, after a doping ban. Whether Astana will still have room for Contador, and whether the Spaniard will want to team with Vinokourov, is unknown.

What’s very clear is Armstrong and Contador already are relishing the chance to face off again next year, freed of the need to paper over the obvious cracks in their relationship.

“We are totally incompatible,” Contador said. “In the end, Armstrong will go his way, and I’ll go mine.”

RECORDS

From Page 28

the CNMI national mark and the 17 to 18 age group in the 100m breaststroke he himself set last year.

Wong was on Heat 4 and clocked in at 1:08.79 to erase the 1:10.21 he recorded on Dec. 27, 2008, during a meet in Guam. He had a 50m split time of 32.51 seconds, which is also faster than the 33.03 seconds time he posted in the 50m breaststroke on Feb. 7, 2009.

Igor Borysik of Ukraine ruled Heat 4 with his time of 59.34 seconds, while Australia’s Brenton Rickard made a new World

Championship mark after logging in at 58.98 seconds on Heat 14, crushing American Hansen Brendan’s record (59.37 seconds) in Canada in 2005.

Wong, Graf, and Staal teamed up with Shin Kimura in the 4x100m freestyle relay and broke the record they made in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam early this year.

The CNMI quartet timed in at 3:57.83 in the 4x100m freestyle relay, passing the 3:58.49 mark they recorded in Guam in January. Staal had the best time in the 50m split with his 27.25 seconds, followed by Wong (27.58 seconds), Graf (29.61 seconds), and Kimura (30.11 seconds). Wong led off for the CNMI and

completed his swim in 56.03 seconds then tagged Graf, who timed in 1:01.94. Kimura was next at 1:03.72, while Staal finished the relay race and logged 56.14 seconds.

Brazil had the fastest time in the relay (3:11.26), erasing the U.S.’ World Championship record (3:12.72) set in Melbourne, Australia in 2007.

Earlier in the morning session of Day 1 of the competition (Sunday evening on Saipan), Kimura, raced in the 400m freestyle on Heat 2 and completed the event in 4:47.58. His personal best time is 4:44.84. The 17-year-old Kimura had an explosive start, timing in at 31.54 seconds in the first 50m of the race, before

slowing down and failing to set a new personal best time.

Paul Biedermann of Germany set the best time in the 400m freestyle with his 3:43.01. Macau’s Pok Man Ngou topped Heat 2 with his time of 4:18.21.

The CNMI National Team, which is accompanied by Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center coach Hiro Kimura and Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Mike Villagomez of the Saipan Swim Club, was off yesterday and will return to action tonight.

Wong and Staal are swimming in the 50m breaststroke, while Shin Kimura and Graf are racing in the 800m freestyle event.

ARMSTRONG

From Page 28

strong’s record of seven straight wins is hugely impressive. Imposing and likely eternal. But it also left many feeling a little cold.

The Texan was too poker-faced, even uncouth and ill-tempered at times, to truly become a people’s champion. He made winning look like meat-grinding, relentless. No one else got a chance.

His single-minded pursuit of victory and sometimes brash ways ruffled French sensibilities. And the whispers and questions about whether a cancer survivor could be so dominant without resorting to banned chemicals refused to go away, no matter how much he insisted he was clean.

Combined, those factors ensured that what should have been his greatest triumph, his seventh win in 2005, left a bitter taste in many mouths. Tour organizers weren’t sad to see the back of him. His victory ceremony felt more like a divorce than the celebration of a seven-year union. Bitterness was evident in Armstrong’s podium speech, with his shot at “the people who

don’t believe in cycling, the cynics and the skeptics.”

“I’m sorry for you. I’m sorry you don’t believe in miracles,” he said.

And off he disappeared into retirement.

Thankfully, that was not the final word.

Among the variety of reasons that drove his return to cycling was a desire to craft lighter, more positive final chapters to his racing career.

It’s been fascinating at this Tour to see Armstrong actually does care how people think of him and his legacy. He worked over the past three weeks and before to rub the tarnish off his image. He couldn’t win the race, but he won hearts and new ears in France and elsewhere for his other big passion outside of cycling—the fight against cancer.

He and the Tour are both better off for it. It wasn’t right that cycling’s most storied race and its greatest champion had parted on such sour terms.

“The fact of not being loved by a certain category of people, by a certain country, that must have gnawed at him,” the Tour’s director, Christian Prudhomme, said this week. “Now, he emerges human. ... He has

without a doubt become closer to the people.

“I only saw one negative placard about Armstrong over the entire three weeks!”

The hissers who gathered around Armstrong’s bus in 2005, whistling and booing as he rode to the start line flanked by bodyguards in the mornings, all but vanished this year, largely replaced by starry-eyed fans happy to see him back.

There was a French teenager in the Spanish city of Barcelona on the verge of tears after she failed to snag an Armstrong autograph and a banner on a hot French road declaring “Lance, yes you can.”

In an Associated Press interview on the eve of Sunday’s final stage, Armstrong himself said: “I am a more relaxed person.”

“I might still be the boss of the peloton, but it’s not this: ‘Hey, it’s my way or the highway,’” he said. “Everybody in that peloton can talk to me and, before, very few people could speak to me—I think was their impression.”

Cycling’s doping controls, even though they still have holes, are more believable now than they were when Armstrong was in his racing prime. Rightly, Arm-

strong’s been repeatedly tested.

He would like fans to believe the fact that nothing’s been found must show that he was clean in the past, too. Although that argument lacks logic, it is an interesting example of how Armstrong’s comeback is in part an effort to change others’ opinion of him.

Armstrong, in the AP interview, was honest enough to acknowledge that some cycling fans think he’s “got the egg on his face” because riders he beat in his heyday, such as 2005 runners-up Ivan Basso and Jan Ullrich, were subsequently brought down by doping scandals.

Winning over his doubters and countering the suspicions “was a goal of mine, to be frank,” he said.

“In my opinion, and this is mine and of course I’m bias(ed), but if you’re on the fence or you’re in the middle and you want to be objective, those questions have been answered,” he added.

To think Armstrong aimed for third, instead of the winner’s spot, this year to win sympathy is clearly wrong. He would have won if he could and will try to do so again next year.

But, this time, third was just perfect.

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	38	.612	—
Boston	57	40	.588	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	54	45	.545	6 1/2
Toronto	48	51	.485	12 1/2
Baltimore	42	55	.433	17 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	52	45	.536	—
Chicago	51	48	.515	2
Minnesota	49	50	.495	4
Cleveland	41	58	.414	12
Kansas City	38	59	.392	14

West Division

Los Angeles	58	39	.598	—
Texas	54	42	.563	3 1/2
Seattle	51	47	.520	7 1/2
Oakland	41	56	.423	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	56	40	.583	—
Atlanta	51	48	.515	6 1/2
Florida	51	48	.515	6 1/2
New York	46	51	.474	10 1/2
Washington	30	68	.306	27

Central Division

Chicago	51	45	.531	—
St. Louis	53	48	.525	1/2
Houston	50	48	.510	2
Milwaukee	49	49	.500	3
Cincinnati	44	53	.454	7 1/2
Pittsburgh	43	55	.439	9

West Division

Los Angeles	62	36	.633	—
Colorado	54	44	.551	8
San Francisco	52	46	.531	10
Arizona	43	56	.434	19 1/2
San Diego	38	61	.384	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Washington 3, San Diego 2, 10 innings
Philadelphia 9, St. Louis 2
Atlanta 10, Milwaukee 2
N.Y. Mets 8, Houston 3
Chicago Cubs 5, Cincinnati 2
Colorado 4, San Francisco 2
Florida 8, L.A. Dodgers 6
Arizona 9, Pittsburgh 0
N.Y. Yankees 7, Oakland 5
Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 1
Baltimore 6, Boston 2

Texas 7, Kansas City 2
Minnesota 10, L.A. Angels 1
Cleveland 12, Seattle 3
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 1

CANADIAN OPEN SCORES

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)— Scores Sunday at the Canadian Open, a \$5.1 million PGA Tour event at the 7,253-yard, par-72 Glen Abbey Golf Club (a-amateur):

SECOND ROUND

Jason Dufner	68-63—131
Jerry Kelly	65-67—132
Scott Verplank	65-67—132
Nathan Green	68-65—133
Peter Tomasulo	65-68—133
Martin Laird	65-69—134
Pat Perez	67-67—134
Camilo Villegas	63-71—134
Bob Estes	67-67—134
Retief Goosen	65-69—134
Kevin Na	63-71—134
Tim Herron	67-68—135
Anthony Kim	69-66—135
Briny Baird	72-63—135
Y.E. Yang	69-66—135
Scott Sterling	67-68—135
Michael Letzig	69-67—136
Mark Calcavecchia	71-65—136
Jimmy Walker	66-70—136
Ken Duke	66-71—137
Stephen Ames	68-69—137
Kevin Sutherland	68-69—137
Mike Weir	71-67—138
Corey Pavin	68-70—138
Jay Williamson	70-68—138
Charles Warren	70-68—138
Daniel Chopra	70-68—138
Parker McLachlin	66-72—138
Lee Janzen	68-70—138
Dean Wilson	68-70—138
John Merrick	70-68—138
Billy Mayfair	69-69—138
Chris Riley	68-70—138

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO MASTERS STANDINGS

Bayani	5	1
Boholanos	4	2
NMBA	3	1
Cabalen	2	2
MAFEA	2	4
MDX	2	4
MFICPA	0	5

TINIAN

From Page 28

The 21-year-old Tinian resident was the latest CNMI bet to be accepted in the list of athletes set to compete in the quadrennial multi-sports meet that will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2.

In an email to the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation president Russ Quinn yesterday, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said NMASA had already received an official confirmation that Manglona’s entry was accepted.

Manglona in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said he is very excited and honored to represent the CNMI to the Mini Games.

“It will be my first regional tournament and I am really looking forward to competing against athletes from our region,” said the former Tinian Head Start teacher.

As of July 24, 58 athletes were listed for the triathlon competition, which will be held on Sept. 30.

“It will be a tough competition, as I have no clue about the course in the Cook Islands. I have to be prepared and adjust to whatever situation I will be into in Rarotonga,” he added.

According to the Pacific Mini Games 2009 website, the swim leg will be held in the harbor and marina area, where the water is usually calm in spring. The four 10-km bike laps will feature one 200m hill with some

undulations and several tight corners, making this leg technical. The four 2.5-km run is flat, but runners will cruise through a mixture of concrete, tarmac, and grass surfaces and they will pass through some trees then go into an open-air road.

To prepare for the Pacific Mini Games, Manglona said he tries to train every day and divides his workouts into two sessions.

“The first session in the morning is more on muscle strengthening, while the second one involves cardio and endurance training,”

Quinn express confidence on Manglona’s chances in the Mini Games.

“Having seen Joshua compete in the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman in May, I believe he will do a great job representing the CNMI in the Cook Islands,” Quinn said.

White shared the same observation and is glad that Manglona will be among the few CNMI athletes who will represent the CNMI in the quadrennial meet.

“We are delighted that Joshua is going to be a part of Team CNMI. He is an up-and-coming athlete, with a great future ahead of him,” White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides Manglona, the CNMI will also send a four-man golf team, a coach and a paddler to the Cook Islands. The CNMI Golf Team is composed of Jess Wabol, Ralph Yumul, Carl Hocog, and Ben Dueñas, while Eddie Johnson is the lone bet of the Commonwealth in the canoe competition.

25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Anglers and boat captain Antonio Omar Camacho, right, of grand prize winner *Sta. Remedio* pose with their giant trophy.



From left, Saipan Fishermen Association past presidents Diego Benavente, John San Nicolas, and Frank Aldan pose with current SFA head Gene Weaver and event host Wolf Mojica during the awards banquet for the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 20 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



Anglers of *Padre De Familia* pose with their first place trophy in the wahoo category.



Isaiah Ulechong of *Nombei* holds the first place trophy for the yellow fin category.



Anglers of *Tweety Bird* are all smiles as they received the first place trophy for the mahi category.



Cabo Express settles for first place in the billfish category after failing to win this year's grand prize.



Mobil Cup winner *Senor Dung* of Rota won in the total weight category with its two marlins weighing 178.20 lbs.



Anglers of *CM-2337-CF* show their runner-up trophy in the billfish category.



Father and son, Paul and James Roberto receive their first place prize in the skipjack tuna category.



Serepein took third place in the billfish category after catching a 130.55-lb. Pacific blue marlin.

Twins rookie Swarzak ends Angels' 8-game streak



Justin Morneau hit two homers and rookie Anthony Swarzak shut down a potent lineup by pitching into the seventh inning as the Minnesota Twins ended the Los Angeles Angels' eight-game winning streak with a 10-1 victory in the American League on Sunday. **25**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Owens wants Vick reinstated

Terrell Owens wants Michael Vick to be reinstated immediately by the NFL, and said any extension of the quarterback's suspension would be similar to "kicking a dead horse." **24**



28 TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Contador wins Tour; Lance Armstrong 3rd

By JAMEY KEATEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Lance Armstrong's kids were dressed in yellow. He was not.

When the seven-time Tour de France champion returned to the Tour podium Sunday, his family was there. His fans were there. And so was rival and teammate Alberto Contador—wearing the coveted and hard-won yellow jersey.

Four years after his seventh Tour win, Armstrong capped his return with an impressive third-place finish.

He had his clan on hand—son Luke, twin girls Grace and Isabelle, his mom, Linda, ex-wife, Kristin, and his girlfriend Anna Hansen, with their baby Max, sporting bright yellow shoes.

They were among the massive crowd that poured out onto Paris' most famous avenue for the finish—Norwegians in Viking helmets, flag-waving Britons and an American in a stars-and-stripes top hat among them.

Contador cruised down the Champs-Elysees to win the Tour

for a second time Sunday after 2,141 miles over three weeks of racing. He repelled challenges in the mountains, excelled in the two time-trials—winning a pivotal race against the clock in the 18th stage—and won the first Alpine stage.

Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, Contador's toughest rival in the mountains, was second overall.

Contador said his biggest battle, however, was against his own Astana team.

"It has been an especially difficult Tour for me, but I savor it and it is more special

because of it," he said after the prize ceremony.

The body language on the winner's podium said it all.

As the 37-year-old Armstrong climbed onto the stage, he gave a perfunctory handshake to his teammate Contador, then heartily grabbed Schleck's hand with both hands.

And as Contador took the victor's bowl, Armstrong cast a long sideways glance at what had long been his spoils; he gave only a cursory glance to



AP
Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, second overall, Tour de France winner Alberto Contador of Spain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, and third overall American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, left to right, react on the podium after the 21st stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 164 kilometers (101.9 miles) with start in Montreaux-Fault-Yonne and finish in Paris, France, Sunday July 26, 2009.

his own crystal trophy.

Asked on French TV what the hardest moment in this race, Contador replied: "It was in the (team)

hotel," without elaborating.

Only 26 years old, Contador already is one of cycling's greats, having won all three Grand Tours

of France, Italy and Spain.

Armstrong's comeback after 3 1/2 years of retirement raised questions about who would lead

Astana during cycling's most prestigious race. Those questions remained through much of the Tour as tensions mounted over who was the No. 1 rider.

On Sunday, Armstrong and Contador shared glasses of champagne on the ride into Paris. But it seemed to be more about keeping up appearances than a genuine celebration: After a few sips, they tossed away their glasses, half-drunk.

"I'm realistic, I did everything I could," Armstrong said before the final stage. "For me, and even more for my kids, it's probably a healthy thing for them to see, because they saw their dad that never lost, and the kids in their class (say) 'your dad never loses,' so it's good for them to see dad get third and still be cool with that and still be happy."

By the end of the race, Armstrong, who admitted his form wasn't the best, was talking less of squabbling within Astana and more about Contador's greatness as a rider.

Like cancer survivor Armstrong, Contador has rebounded from a brush with death.

After persistent headaches, Contador fell in the first stage of

See CONTADOR on Page 26

Records fall in CNMI debut in Rome

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Swim Team had record-breaking performances in Day 1 of the swimming competition in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Kai Staal started the CNMI's record-crushing debut in the World Championships after timing in at 28.04 seconds in the 50m butterfly event. Staal's

time is a new age group (15 to 16 years old) and CNMI national mark, as he eclipsed his own time of 28.73 posted in June during the 2009 Guam Championships.

The Saipan International School student's record-shattering swim came on the same heat [4] where Spain's Rafael Munoz set a new World Championships record. Munoz completed the preliminary race in 22.90 seconds, tying the day's best record of Roland Schoeman of Russia and breaking the Russian's mark (22.96 seconds) made during the 2005 edition of the event in Montreal, Canada.

Cooper Graf also competed in the 50m butterfly race on Heat 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Cooper Graf, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong pose in front of a poster for the 13th FINA World Championships last Saturday in Rome, Italy.

and set a new personal best time of 30.11 seconds. Graf's previous personal best mark was 30.92 seconds. Jakob Schiott Andkjær of Denmark won Heat

3 with a time of 23.04 seconds.

Rezne Wong continued the CNMI's record-setting plunge into the pool, as he broke both

See RECORDS on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joshua Manglona will be representing the CNMI to the triathlon competition in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in September.

Tinian's Manglona to take part in Pacific Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Tinian triathlete Joshua Manglona is joining the lean CNMI delegation to the Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

See TINIAN on Page 26

By JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Columnist

John Leicester is an international sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jleicester@ap.org.



Armstrong more human in third place

Well, well, there's a sight you don't see every day at the Tour de France: Lance Armstrong on the podium in Paris without—hold the presses—the race winner's garish yellow jersey on his back.

Third. Not a result, in pure sporting terms, that ranks up there with the seven consecutive times he claimed the victor's laurels on the crowd-lined Champs-Elysees, framed by the Arc de Triomphe in the background.

But how much more human.

Armstrong suffered on this Tour, the pain and effort etched into his craggy face. Like a wily fox, he used years of accumulated race smarts to compensate for what his 37-year-old body has lost in speed and resilience; a few seconds saved here, a few more clawed back there.

When the youngsters sped off ahead, he gritted it out behind. Winning, it became clear in the Alps, was beyond him. But he found enough gas in the tank to keep all but two other riders—winner Alberto Contador and runner-up Andy Schleck—at arm's length all the way to Paris.

He spoke about hurting, about being tired—"I'm realistic. It's part of getting older."

He acknowledged that age and a 3 1/2-year furlough from cycling had dulled his cutting edge.

And he was more likable and less otherworldly because of it. Like that famed Paris arch of white stone blocks, Arm-

See ARMSTRONG on Page 26